

**TOWN of  
MERRIMAC  
MASSACHUSETTS**



**2005**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**





ANNUAL REPORT  
*of the*  
OFFICERS, BOARDS  
*and*  
COMMITTEES  
*of the*  
TOWN OF MERRIMAC  
MASSACHUSETTS

*For the Year Ending December 31, 2005*



*In  
Memory  
of those  
Who Have Held  
Public Office  
In the  
Town of Merrimac*

**Roy Keiser**

*Wiring Inspector 1969 - 1997*

**Louis Cyr**

*School Committee 1964 - 1965*

*Town Counsel 1964 - 1969*

**George J.P. Stevens**

*Selectman 1955 - 10/1/66 & 1973 - 1986*

*Playground Commissioner 1949 - 2/1/1980*

**Alva "Buddy" Clark**

*Cemetery Trustee 1964 - 1984*



## DIRECTORY OF ELECTED OFFICERS

### **Moderator – *One Year***

Robert Bender

Term Expires 2006

### **Board of Selectmen – *Three Years***

Bonnie L. Collins

Term Expires 2008

Robert S. Sinibaldi

Term Expires 2007

Carol A. Traynor, Chairperson

Term Expires 2006

### **Board of Assessors – *Three Years***

Diane F. Cole

Term Expires 2007

Joyce E. Clohecyc

Term Expires 2008

Edward R. Davis, Chairman

Term Expires 2006

### **Planning Board -- *Five Years***

Ray Gingras

Term Expires 2010

Ricky Pinciario, Chairman

Term Expires 2008

Robert S. Sinibaldi

Term Expires 2006

John Thomas

Term Expires 2007

Sandy Venner

Term Expires 2009

Patricia True, Secretary

### **Constables – *Three Years***

Arthur Evans

Term Expires 2007

Brian Peavey, Jr.

Term Expires 2007

### **Town Clerk – *Three Years***

Patricia True

Term Expires 2007

### **Board of Health – *Three Years***

Eileen Hurley

Term Expires 2008

Deborah Ketchen

Term Expires 2007

Laura Weaver, Chairperson

Term Expires 2006

### **School Committee – *Three Years***

Tom Atwood

Term Expires 2007

Rich Baker

Term Expires 2006

Doreen Blade

Term Expires 2008

Guillaume Buell, Vice Chair

Term Expires 2008

Heather Connor

Term Expires 2007

Val Corradino

Term Expires 2006

Lisa Dube-Carpenter

Term Expires 2006

Carol Grazio

Term Expires 2007

Jed Levine

Term Expires 2007

Phil Littlefield

Term Expires 2008

Maureen Moran

Term Expires 2008

Maria Piccolimini

Term Expires 2007

### **Library Trustees – *Three Years***

Susan M. Coburn	Term Expires 2006
Yvonne Cosgrove, Co Chair	Term Expires 2005
Ellen Evans, Co Chair	Term Expires 2007
Linda Getz	Term Expires 2008
Susan Hebenstreit	Term Expires 2006
Jeffrey W. Hoyt	Term Expires 2007

### **Park & Recreation Commissioners – *Five Years***

Donald Ackerman, Chairman	Term Expires 2007
David Creesy	Term Expires 2006
Erick Kuchar	Term Expires 2009
Susan Marden	Term Expires 2010
Jay Soucy	Term Expires 2008

### **Municipal Light Commissioners – *Three Years***

Louis Bibeau, Chairman	Term Expires 2006
Norman Denault	Term Expires 2008
Frederick Underwood	Term Expires 2007

### **Municipal Water Commissioners – *Three Years***

Louis Bibeau, Chairman	Term Expires 2006
Norman Denault	Term Expires 2008
Frederick Underwood	Term Expires 2007

### **Cemetery Trustees – *Three Years***

Patricia Casey, Chairperson	Term Expires 2006
Elizabeth Emery, Clerk	Term Expires 2008
Gordon Rines	Term Expires 2007

### **Sewer Commissioners – *Three Years***

John G. Buzzell, Sr.	Term Expires 2006
Michael P. Fall, Clerk	Term Expires 2007
Richard L. Herbert, Chairman	Term Expires 2008

### **Merrimac Housing Authority – *Five Years***

Bette Elliot	Term Expires 2010
C. Shirley Jones	Term Expires 2006
Altha Ottman	Term Expires 2007
Geraldine Shephard, Vice Chairman & Gov. Appointed	Term Expires 2006
Stephen P. True, Vice Treasurer	Term Expires 2008

## DIRECTORY OF APPOINTED OFFICERS

### Finance Committee

Michael Baumert  
John Cryan  
Patricia Dillon  
Alan Dunn, Chairman

Catherine Gabriel-Heusser  
Charles Hackett  
Patricia Herman

### Board of Appeals

Arthur Amirault  
Gordon Broz, Alternate  
Ronald Dandurant  
Joshua Jackson

Patrick Melican  
Sean Scott, Alternate  
Mark Townsend, Chairman  
Debra Weinhold, Secretary

### Conservation Commission

Eleanor Hope-McCarthy  
Jon Pearson  
Robert Prokop, Chairman  
Jake SanAntonio

Jay Smith, Agent  
Janet Terry  
Deborah Woodward  
Arthur Yarranton

### Building Inspector

Philip J. Hagopian

### Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Ronald Caruso

### Wiring Inspector

William Nutter

### Highway Department

Gunnar Sande, Foreman

### Fire Department

Ralph W. Spencer, Chief

Norman Armstrong, Deputy Chief

Larry Fisher, Deputy Chief

### Board of Registrars

Natalie Christie

Betty Elliot

Dorothy Whiting

### Town Counsel

Ashod N. Amirian

### Town Accountant

Debra A. McGrane

### Finance Director & Treasurer

Carol A. McLeod

### Tax Collector

Geraldine Gozycki

**Selectmen's Secretary**

Anne O. Jim

**Rent Control Board**

Arthur Evans

Sandra Venner

Beth Yuskaitis

**Animal Care & Control Officer**

Madelyn Cirinna

**Cultural Council**

Gage Cogswell, Chairman & Treasurer

Judy Flynn

Thelma Gibbs

Eleanor Hope-McCarthy, Secretary

Candida Journeay

Helen Koolian

Nancy Perkins

Hanna Trautmann

Deborah Webster

**Veteran's Agent**

Ronald D. Koontz

**Historical Commission**

Patricia Casey

James Hume

Jeffrey W. Hoyt

Emeritus Members: Walter Calnan, Evelyn Calnan

**Council on Aging**

Nancy Bachelder

Mary Cheney, Clerk

Dorothy A. Cloyd

Laura Dillingham-Mailman, Director

Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Chairwoman

Herb Gynan

Irene Kimbrell

Dorothy Lumsden, Secretary

James Murphy

Victor Perrault

Carol Sue Ranshaw

Terri Walden, Treasurer

**Kimball Park Trustees**

Barbara Arbour

Yvonne Bednarz

Joyce Spinelli

**Emergency Management Director**

Ralph W. Spencer, Chief

**Open Space Committee**

Michelle Carley

Tom Graziano

Roy Rigor Da Eva

Nancy Perkins

Donna Tierney

Sandra Venner

Deborah Woodward, Chairman

**Town Nurse**

Charlotte Eileen Stepanian

**Capital Planning Committee**

Michael Baumert, Finance Committee

Janet Bruno

Edward Madden

Sandra Venner, Chairperson

Carol A. Traynor, Selectman



**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MERRIMAC BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
for the year ending December 31, 2005**

To the Citizens of Merrimac:

At a quick glance, 2005 would appear to have been a very quiet year; however, that was not the case. Merrimac continued to face the challenge of maintaining its old fashion small town character, while suffering and adjusting to the pressures of growth.

Early in the spring, the selectmen formed the Cable Educational Access Committee and were able to replace the computer lab at the Sweetsir School, update the lab at the Donaghue and provide some computers to the Senior Center. The money for this project came from an agreement within the Adelphia contract.

Bonnie Collins was elected to the BOS after entering the public arena just prior to May's election and won on a sticker campaign. We thank Mark Brooks for the three years he served on the Board. After the election, the BOS was reorganized with Carol Traynor, Chairman, Robert Sinibaldi, Clerk and Bonnie Collins. At town meeting, the donation of land by Mr. Curran on Broad Street was accepted. This coupled with an anonymous donation and one from the Merrimac Savings Bank allowed the "Welcome to Merrimac" sign to be purchased and given a permanent home. Also, at Town Meeting, it was approved to create a Senior Work Program. It was determined that fourteen spaces would be available. This enabled seniors to fill various positions throughout town departments and earn up to a seven hundred and fifty dollar credit on their real estate taxes. This program proved to be beneficial and will continue to be administered by the Council on Aging.

With no new large municipal projects underway, the selectmen were able to spend time on various small ones. Birchmeadow Estates saw road work done, something many residents of the development felt was long overdue. Drainage problems were addressed on Brush Hill Road and hopefully, the repairs on River Road will prevent future road erosion. Local contractors were asked and agreed to build a new basketball court. The Parks and Recreation Committee worked throughout the year trying to find and develop new playing fields. The Merrimac Museum moved into its' new home in the David Hoyt Library building. The former Senior Center remained underutilized, but it is hoped that in the future, it will be used by various civic groups. An Economic Development Committee was formed and much time and research was done on how to attract business to Town, the results of which are not yet complete.

Several large 40B projects continued to be worked upon. The condos on Broad Street were completed. The Village of Merrimac was approximately half finished and the ZBA hearings on Chellis Hill were closed. Work on Chellis Hill, a 216 unit townhouse project, is slated to begin in the spring of 2006. The ZBA decision did contain a large mitigation package, which will be dispersed to the Town, as the project goes forward.

In late summer, a Regional Agreement Task Force was created by the three Boards of Selectmen. The Merrimac representatives were Robert Sinibaldi, Sandy Venner, and Bonnie Collins as chairperson. The charge of the task force was to examine the Regional Agreement and bring any suggested changes before Town Meeting in 2006.

Lastly, the selectmen would like to thank all of the Town's volunteers. Whether elected, appointed or at large, their efforts markedly improved the quality of life that we've come to enjoy. There is no monetary value that can equal the caring and dedication that was exhibited by so many of our citizens.

Respectfully Submitted,  
MERRIMAC BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Carol A. Traynor, Chairperson

Robert S. Sinibaldi, Clerk

Bonnie L. Collins

## 2005 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen & The Citizens of the Town of Merrimac

The Merrimac Fire Department has again had a very busy year responding to 612 calls for the year 2005.

Training was very intense this past year, not only with regular firefighting training, but also with Homeland Security training courses.

This year, through a grant of \$17,000 we received a new lighting unit to light up buildings at fire scenes and to share with other departments in case of emergencies.

Also to go along with this grant, we received 380 blankets, 60 cots, and 15 portable water cans, 2 portable tents, and 12 small first aid kits.

We continue to apply for grants for the Fire Department for new equipment at no cost to the town.

The S.A.F.E. (Students Awareness of Fire Education) program is still very well-received in our schools. This week-long event during Fire Prevention Week covers all grades from pre-school to 6th grade. Students learn how to escape from a smoke filled house and also how to build an escape plan to get out of the home. We would like to thank Mrs. Jervey, Mr. Harrison, and Mrs. Webb to allow us to bring this program into the schools.

We again have sent firefighters to the Fire Academy for Firefighter I & II training.

This training allowed them to become certified firefighters. Congratulations to all that have attended.

To the Board of Selectmen, we wish to thank you for all your support this past year.

To our Firefighters and EMT's, this year has been many long hours and many sleepless nights for you all. We wish to thank you for all that you give to this community and to us as a Board. Your dedication to this department is always noticed.

To the Couplings what more can we say, but thank you for all you do to make our jobs much easier every year. We wish for continued success.

To the Citizens of Merrimac, The Board of Fire Engineers and the Firefighter/EMT's wish to thank you for your support and kind words that mean so much to us and allow us to bring a strong service to the town.

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Board of Fire Engineers

Ralph W. Spencer, Chief  
Norman Armstrong, Deputy Chief  
Larry Fisher, Deputy Chief

## MERRIMAC FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Chief Ralph W. Spencer\*

Deputy Larry Fisher

Deputy Norman Armstrong\*

Captain Mike Sloban

Captain James David

Captain Brian W. Peavey, Jr.\*

Captain Greg Habgood\*

Lt. Lester Smith

Lt. Mark Soucy\*

Lt. David Owens\*

Lt. Harry Ellis\*

### FIREFIGHTERS

Arthur Amirault

Wayne Armstrong

Tim Bean

Albert Berard

Kellie Briscoe\*

Steve Brown\*

Tim Carey\*

Brandon Cox

Bruce Daniels\*

Derek DeMarco

Thomas Flinn

Annette Hagopian\*

Richard Holcroft

James Hume

Thomas Jordan

Chris Judson

Cliff Judson

Mark Judson

Robert Judson, Jr.

Robert Judson, Sr.

Scott Maker\*

Elaine McCarthy\*

Michael McLeieer

Jon Morrill

Patrick Noone

James Sevigny

David Sherwood\*

Kris Smith

Stephanie Smith\*

Kathy Spencer\*

Nerine Sullivan

Lisa Young-Carey

\* EMT



## REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

### Chief of Police

James A. Flynn, Jr.

### Sergeant

Eric M. Shears

### Patrolmen

Stephen M. Ringuette  
Charles W. Sciacca

Daniel A. Ross  
David J. Vance

### Reserve Police Officers

Stephen E. Beaulieu  
Edward A. Cardone, Jr.  
Richard P. Holcroft  
Chad L. Larson  
James T. Mikson  
Rebecca J. Ouellette  
David Riley  
James M. Seymour

Brian A. Cardone  
Paul M. Hogg  
Nathaniel B. Korpusik  
Michael R. McGrath  
Heather M. O'Connor  
David C. Rich  
Mark E. Sayers  
Edward Syvinski

### Reserve Police Officer For Details Only

Brian W. Peavey, Sr.

### Clerk/Dispatcher

Linda A. Seymour

### Dispatchers

Bonnie J. Bishop

Benjamin A. Douglas

### Reserve Dispatchers

Robert F. Bishop, III  
Nathaniel B. Korpusik  
Brian W. Peavey, Jr.  
Tracy A. Saitow

Richard P. Holcroft  
Michael O. McLeier  
Stephen A. Ringuette  
Kathy A. Spencer

### Janitor

Madeleine A. Lay

### Matrons

Bonnie J. Bishop  
Rebecca J. Ouellette  
Linda A. Seymour

Annette Hagopian  
Tracy A. Saitow  
Kathy A. Spencer

### Honorary Police Officers

Sergeant Alfred Nichols

Maurice Carey  
Alan Hassig

Arthur D. Evans  
Richard G. Noone

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Merrimac, Massachusetts:

First, expressing my appreciation for the cooperation and courteous assistance rendered to the Police Department by the selectmen, citizens and all other town officials, I hereby submit my annual report of the activities of the Police Department for the year 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

James A. Flynn, Jr.  
Chief of Police

## POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES FOR 2005

General Services . . . . .	1,163
Sexual Assault . . . . .	1
Assault & Battery . . . . .	3
Breaking & Entering . . . . .	19
Larceny . . . . .	44
Stolen Vehicles . . . . .	3
Stolen Vehicles Recovered . . . . .	5
Stalking Complaints . . . . .	1
Vandalism Complaints . . . . .	72
Weapons Violation Complaints . . . . .	1
Sex Offenses . . . . .	1
Intoxicated Driver Complaints . . . . .	9
Field Investigations . . . . .	51
General Offenses . . . . .	10
Trespassing Complaints . . . . .	9
Civil Complaints . . . . .	1
Juvenile Offenses . . . . .	59
Local Ordinance Violations . . . . .	28
Missing Persons . . . . .	2
Lost & Found . . . . .	47
General Disturbances . . . . .	27
Family Disturbances . . . . .	29
Gathering Disturbances . . . . .	52
Youth in Street Complaints . . . . .	22
Noise Complaints . . . . .	69
Annoying Phone Call Complaints . . . . .	14
Suspicious Activity . . . . .	137
Boating Complaints . . . . .	2
Officers Wanted . . . . .	594
Assist Citizens . . . . .	179
Transfer Assist . . . . .	19
Breakdown Assist . . . . .	3
Building Checks . . . . .	252
Message Deliveries . . . . .	79
Animal Complaints . . . . .	208
Assist Municipal Agencies . . . . .	253
Highway Department . . . . .	60
Light & Water Department . . . . .	123
State Highway Department . . . . .	8
Sewer Department . . . . .	62
Emergency Services . . . . .	2
Ambulance Calls . . . . .	357
Mental Health Emergency Calls . . . . .	20
Reported Death . . . . .	2
Incapacitated Persons . . . . .	2
Fire Alarms . . . . .	141
Burglar Alarms . . . . .	200
Assist Other Police Departments . . . . .	122
Traffic Stops . . . . .	1,166

Radar Assignments . . . . .	32
Speeding Complaints . . . . .	4
Leaving the Scene of an Accident . . . . .	11
Vehicle Accidents, Personal Injury . . . . .	25
Vehicle Accidents, Property Damage . . . . .	9
Traffic Control Complaints . . . . .	7
Abandoned Motor Vehicles . . . . .	5
Intra-Department Services . . . . .	5
District Court . . . . .	59
Vehicle Pursuits . . . . .	2
Summons Served . . . . .	31
Citations Issued . . . . .	479

**ARRESTS FOR THE YEAR 2005**

Male Residents . . . . .	9
Male Non-Residents . . . . .	24
Female Residents . . . . .	2
Female Non-Residents . . . . .	5

**Juveniles**

Male Residents . . . . .	3
Male Non-Residents . . . . .	1
Female Residents . . . . .	1
Female Non-Residents . . . . .	1

**PROTECTIVE CUSTODY FOR THE YEAR 2005**

Male Residents . . . . .	5
Male Non-Residents . . . . .	1
Female Residents . . . . .	2
Female Non-Residents . . . . .	1



## MERRIMAC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS: One of the most significant legislative bills to affect veterans, was the passage of the "Definition of a Veterans" bill was in 2004. For the first time ever, those veterans who served from 1948-1950 and from 1975-1990 are entitled to the same state benefits the rest of the Commonwealth veterans are entitled to.

This year, a second significant bill was passed and signed by Governor Mitt Romney.

### ROMNEY SIGNS LEGISLATION EXPANDING MILITARY BENEFITS

*Says new law is a fitting Veterans Day tribute to those who have served*

Governor Mitt Romney signed legislation that expands benefits to veterans, members of the Massachusetts National Guard and their families.

"Our men and women in uniform carry on a brave and noble tradition of service to their state and country," said Romney. "They sacrifice much through their service, and I'm pleased that through this package of benefits our state has properly recognized all that military families do to keep us safe."

Earlier this year, Romney filed legislation to make education more affordable for returning Guard members, increase the benefit paid to families in the event of a member's death in the line of duty and establish an annual surviving spouse benefit. Romney also proposed to increase the per diem compensation that Guard members receive, while on state active duty and have the state cover life insurance premiums for those on active federal duty.

The Legislature supported the Governor's proposal and expanded it to include other benefits. The bill Romney signed today:

- Exempts Guard members from paying any fees while attending a Massachusetts public college or university. Already, they receive free tuition, but fees can account for as much as three quarters of the cost of a college education. The state, not the schools, will pay for the cost of the waivers;
- Increases the death benefit paid to families of Guard members killed in the line of duty from \$5,000 to \$100,000;
- Establishes a check-off on the state tax form to help members of the Guard and armed forces reserves called to active duty after September 11, 2001 and their families defray the costs of food, housing, utilities, medical services and other expenses;
- Increases the per diem compensation that Guard members receive while on state active duty from \$75 to \$100;
- Provides that the state pay half the monthly life insurance premiums for Guard members;
- Creates a new \$2,000 benefit for Gold Star spouses and increases the Gold Star parents' benefit from \$1,500 to \$2,000;
- Provides a \$1,000 bonus to Massachusetts servicemen and women who have served on active duty post-9/11 in Afghanistan or Iraq and a \$500 bonus to those who serve at least six months on active duty in other locations;
- Grants high school diplomas to veterans who left school for good upon being drafted or enlisting in World War II, Korea or Vietnam wars.

"We must ask ourselves what we can do for our veterans here in the Commonwealth, and I strongly believe this landmark legislation brings us a step closer to a fitting answer," said Senator Stephen M. Brewer, Senate Chairman of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs.



"With this bill, we have cemented our pledge to those who protect us, the men and women of the armed forces – past, present and future – for they deserve nothing less," said Representative Anthony J. Verga, House Chairman of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs.

If you are a veteran or family member of a veteran and have any question please contact me.

#### CHAPTER 115 BENEFITS

EMERGENCY BENEFITS: This department is able to assist eligible veterans and spouses with an honorable discharged.

BURIALS: This department is able to assist in the burial payment of an honorably discharged veteran under certain circumstances.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS: Roger Clark of the American Legion decorated the graves of veterans in the town cemetery on Memorial Day.

VETERANS PREFERENCE IN HOUSING: Assisted in securing and maintaining quality housing mandated by federal guidelines for elder and disabled veterans and their families.

VA COMPENSATION: This department assisted and secured various VA benefits -- service connected and non-service connected -- disability compensations. The VA compensation cash benefits this year for Merrimac veterans totaled approximately \$60,000.00. Over \$660,000.00 comes to Merrimac veterans from the VA annually.

VA HEALTH CARE: This department assisted and secured various VA medical benefits for service and non-service connected veterans. These medical benefits included short and long-term medical treatments at the VA Clinic in Haverhill and VA hospitals in the VISN (Veterans Integrated Service Network) area. Included are the \$8.00 co-payments for various drug prescriptions for all veterans.

SOCIAL SECURITY: This department assisted and referred to the proper agency veterans seeking benefits from VA retirement, Social Security, and city governments.

#### ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I was elected to the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Veterans Service Officers Association for the sixth year. I am the Chairperson of the MVSOA By-Laws Committee and the Finance/Budget Committee.

I was elected as the State Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Chapter 240 out of Beverly for 2005-2006. I am also the Massachusetts State Service Officer for the MOPH.

I am Past Commander of the Combat Infantrymen's Association in the Northeast Region, which includes Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald D. Koontz

## PENTUCKET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

This Merrimac Annual Report of the School Department activities for FY 05 has been developed by the Principals of the Dr. Helen R. Donaghue School, Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School, Pentucket Regional Middle School and Pentucket Regional High School on behalf of the Superintendent of Schools and the Pentucket Regional School Committee.

Maria Piccolomini, Chairwoman  
Peter Cronin, Vice Chairman  
Thomas Atwood, Assistant Treasurer  
Robert O'Keefe, Secretary  
Margaret J. Muench  
Lisa Dube Carpenter  
Carol A. Grazio  
Heather Conner  
Sherrie Gadd  
Anthony L. Castiglione  
Jed Levine  
Guillaume O. Buell

**Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir  
Helen R. Donaghue Schools**

It is a pleasure to submit our annual report for the Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School and the Helen R. Donaghue School for the 2004-2005 school year. During 2004-2005, we worked toward the School Committee's mission to "ensure that all students discover and develop their talents and abilities to their highest potential, strive for academic excellence, acquire respect for self and others, and obtain the knowledge and skills to succeed and contribute as ethical, responsible citizens."

Our school year began with the fourth annual, "Merrimac Goes Back to School Day" to celebrate the opening of school. Families had an opportunity to visit classrooms, meet teachers and obtain information about the school, community, and PTO. The October 1, 2004 enrollment was 333 students in grades Preschool through grade 2 at the Dr. Sweetsir School and 405 in grades 3 through 6 at the Helen R. Donaghue School.

The following School Improvement Plan goals were developed from a parent and teacher survey and were focused on during the 2004-2005 year:

- Meet the performance goals for the entire student body and all sub groups as defined by the Department of Education accountability system and *No Child Left Behind* mandates.
- Create and maintain a safe, orderly and secure school environment that supports students' learning and development.

We continued to make curriculum and instructional materials consistent among all of the elementary schools in the Pentucket Regional School District. After implementing the Scott Foresman reading program in grades 1 and 2 during the 2003-2004 school year, the teachers in all grade 3 and grade 4 classrooms also began to use this reading program during the 2004-2005 school year. Teachers in the elementary grades in Merrimac again joined their colleagues in Groveland and West Newbury to continue working on the curriculum-mapping project. This project will result in clear outlines of what the schools expect students to learn each year, a sequence for teaching these things, and a consistent plan for assessing how well students have learned, understood, and can use these things.

Students in Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 took tests as part of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). The percentage of students scoring at the proficient or advanced level remained about the same as the previous year in Grade 3 Reading and Grade 4 English Language Arts. In Mathematics, students scoring in the proficient or advanced level increased at Grade 4 and stayed about the same at Grade 6. The percentage of students scoring at the advanced level decreased, however. Grade 5 students took the test in Science and Technology. The percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced decreased in comparison to last year's students who took the test. Beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, students in grades 3 – 6 will all take MCAS examinations in reading and mathematics.

As part of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) education reform initiative, all schools are expected to help their students to become proficient in reading, writing and mathematics by 2014. In Massachusetts, the MCAS results are used to measure each school's progress toward this goal. The state measures how well the entire student population is progressing toward the goal of 100% proficiency, as well as how well individual subgroups, such as ethnic, socio-economic, and students receiving special education services, are progressing toward the performance goal. The Helen R. Donaghue School met the state's expectations for Annual Yearly Progress in both English language arts and Mathematics for the entire student population. We fell short in helping students receiving special education services meet the improvement goal in both mathematics and English language arts. The staff at the Frederick N. Sweetsir and the Helen R. Donaghue School will continue to use the state tests results and the annual NCLB report to assess the effectiveness of our curriculum and instruction. We will also use the results in conjunction with other measures of student learning to identify individual students who need additional instructional support in the schools and to provide them this support so they can learn and perform at a higher level.



The Destination Imagination Program at the Donaghue School helped participating students develop creative and critical thinking through group problem solving. The program relies on parents to volunteer their time and talents to coach students through problem solving and presentation of their solutions in a tournament in the spring. One team from the school participated in the state sectional portion of the tournament and scored very well. Mr. Richard Jervey, fifth grade teacher at the Donaghue, coordinated this program, again, this year.

The use of technology as a tool for learning continues to be a goal for the Sweetsir and Donaghue staff and students. We are continually trying to integrate technology into the curriculum and enhance the skills of teachers and students. The Merrimac Board of Selectmen, working with Computer Integration Specialist Philip Cosgrove, secured money for technology upgrades in the schools through the town's Educational Telecommunications Program grant. The board made gifts to the schools that included at the Dr. Frederick Sweetsir School thirty desktop computers and software for the lab, two interactive white boards for classrooms, and 2 color laser printers. Gifts to the Helen R. Donaghue School included twenty laptop computers assembled on two mobile carts for use in the classrooms, two color laser printers, five desktop computers and software for the library/media center, and two interactive whiteboards. These gifts have made it possible for teachers to use computer and web-based technology to enhance students' learning experiences at the schools.

Ongoing support from the PTO has also been instrumental in helping us upgrade hardware at both schools. We have accomplished a great deal in the area of technology, though we need to continue to devote resources to maintaining the level of instructional support and adequate hardware for students and staff.

In the spring, the town passed a warrant article to fund a road around the Sweetsir School. School staff worked with town officials to study the traffic pattern at the school and devise a plan to improve the flow of traffic, increase parking, and provide a safer area for students.

The Merrimac PTO, as always, emphasized the importance of a close working partnership with the administration, staff and parents. Through their dedication and hard work this year, the PTO purchased a variety of materials and supplies for the schools. These included an Ellison Letter Press, digital camera, musical instruments, easels, trade books, playground equipment, defibrillators, air conditioners, camcorder, instructional carts, LCD projectors, and an interactive whiteboard. The PTO also purchased a large sign for each school to post school and community events. The PTO also organized After School Exploration programs, presented a PTO scholarship to a graduating senior, coordinated teacher appreciation events, planned family fun nights, produced a student yearbook, and supported our classroom programs by volunteering in our schools every day. In addition, the PTO sponsored the following cultural arts programs:

- Wing Masters "Birds of Prey"
- Plimoth Plantation
- Fun With Pyramids and Pharaohs
- Grade 6 buses for A Christmas Carol
- Author-Illustrator Maryann Cocca-Leffler
- Discovery Museum
- Ellen Goethel -- Explore the Ocean
- Curious Creatures
- "Star Lab" -- Museum of Science
- Ben Franklin
- Grade 6 buses for Nature's Classroom
- Johnny the K (Respect Program)



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTO for their outstanding commitment to the children of Merrimac. We continue to encourage and foster a strong home-school-community partnership through our monthly newsletters, parent volunteer program, curriculum information nights, sponsor-a-classroom program, and the Holiday Helper Program.

Our Before and After School Program and Extended Day Kindergarten Program continued to provide services to over 80 children daily.

In closing, the staff of the Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School and the Helen R. Donaghue School wishes to extend its appreciation to members of the Merrimac community for their support throughout the year. We value public education and believe it is the cornerstone of our community, and a major resource for enhancing the quality of life for our current and future citizens.

We would like to acknowledge the service of the following staff members who retired in June 2005:

Linda Brackett, a second grade teacher who worked for thirty-four years at the Dr. Sweetsir School. She was an active member of the school community, often volunteering for a variety of committees. We wish her well in her retirement.

Most of you know that Jean Connor, who taught our second graders from 1970-2005, died tragically in June. Through the years she shared with her students her love of art and of cats. She always had a special place in her heart for all the children in her classroom. The staff at the Helen R. Donaghue and Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir Schools were overwhelmed and heartened by the outpouring of goodwill from townspeople and the Pentucket community when our dear friend and colleague died. Jeannie taught all of us "the manner or way" to make a difference in children's lives. She is greatly missed.

Angela B. Jervey  
Principal  
Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School

Robert C. Harrison  
Principal  
Helen R. Donaghue School

## Pentucket Regional Middle School

The following reflect notable events / changes at the Middle School:

1. Significant technology upgrades continued to be implemented last year. We now have a number of links added to our website which provide parents, community members and other interested public parties with an excellent source of communication related to virtually all aspects of the middle school. Included on our website are links pertaining to activities / events, school lunches, calendars, curriculum maps, student homework (Homework Now), Ed. Line (providing secure access for parents and students to the teacher electronic rankbook which is upgraded each week). Parents are automatically e-mailed through the program whenever teachers make a change or addition to the rankbook. It is detailed to the extent that parents know which assignments have and have not been turned in along with up-to-date grades and averages. On our Homepage we have "Library Spots" and "Great Websites" which provide students with numerous websites to facilitate research. Other sites are also made available for the purpose of offering study skills assistance.
2. As we had provided new computers for our Computer Lab, we had taken those previously used in the lab and placed them in classrooms to increase the number of available student workstations. Those computers have been installed with upgraded programs. This will be an annual task. These tools are vital as support mechanisms for curriculum delivery and for the purpose of addressing various student learning styles. We have also begun the process of providing teachers with "Smart Boards." This equipment allows for use of DVD's and interactive programs along with manipulation of the teacher computer screen with internet connection which is displayed to all students in the classroom. The "Smart Board" which looks like a "White Board" can be touched and manipulated just as one would their own computer screen. This item significantly intensifies the teaching and learning experience.
3. The Community Service Team, which was begun three years ago, continues to grow as we have become engaged with a wider variety of community agencies. We have been averaging 70—80 students per year. This is reflective of those who remain with the program and fulfill all their obligations.
4. The remainder of our co-curricular activities continue to remain strong and we continue to develop a variety of opportunities from which students may choose: art club, intra-murals that are season-appropriate, tennis, and numerous performing arts clubs including strings and percussion instruction. We are expecting a significant impact on these programs this year as we will shortly be curtailing the availability of late busses for students.
5. We continue to work on maintaining impetus as it pertains to curriculum development and adjustment. We continue to be engaged in a 7 - 12 initiative to bring mathematics instruction more in line with NCTM and TIMSS Study recommendations (upon which are based our state standards). The elementary schools have adopted a curriculum to address those recommendations and the middle school continues to be engaged in the text series selection process which will result in smooth transition from the elementary curriculum to the middle as it pertains to methods of teaching Math (a more integrated approach) and sequence of content. The text selection portion of the project was placed on hold last year by our former superintendent and we are looking at re-engaging this year.
6. Due to the special needs of elementary students entering the middle school, we continue to expand our complement of "Phonic Ear" amplification systems for both grade levels and Special Education programs.



7. We have had a dramatic increase in the number of various learning disabilities with which we must contend and had added to our programs (Functional Skills and Language Based Learning Center) a new program called Resource Academic Intervention (RAI) that is designed to assist students whose overall functioning is significantly below grade level. This program continues to be a viable and integral addition to our special needs services.
8. We completed the process of having a new roof installed over the middle school. Thus far, there have been no leaks and we continue to be engaged in the process of replacing damaged ceiling tiles. We also have been and continue to work on contracting for fabrication of new hoods/cowlings which protect ventilation fans on the roof.
9. We did have the entire school calibrated as part of a computer controlled heat management system. Though we still grapple with the need to replace a number of valves that have "frozen", (a costly project, the upgrades to our heating system have resulted in a savings of 100 gallons of oil per day during heating season. It is unfortunate that said budgetary savings have been, in a way, offset by the significant increase in cost of fuel.

Renzo Binagi, Principal  
Pentucket Regional Middle School

### **Pentucket Regional High School**

Despite serious budget cuts in 05-06, the high school continues to work on fulfilling the recommendations made by the NEASC visiting team in March of 2002. All high schools must complete this process every ten years in order to maintain their accreditation. The Commission on Public and Secondary Schools has voted to continue Pentucket's accreditation. As we focus on becoming a Mission driven school, all aspects of student learning are driven by our goal of fostering academic excellence, civic responsibility and social awareness by providing students with a strong foundation of knowledge and skills as well as developing a life long quest for learning. We have set high expectations for student learning and have developed a set of rubrics to assess whether students have met those standards. Our goals this year are to continue to map our curriculum in every course and compare our maps with the curriculum maps K-12 and to increase the use of technology across the curriculum. These will insure that student achievement continues to be a focus of Pentucket High School while providing access to the curriculum for all students.

Despite the continuation of a fee structure for extra-curricular activities and athletics, our programs continue to be very strong with high student participation. Our concern is that many students may be opting out of participation due to financial difficulties. We have tried our best to insure that all students have access to athletics and extra-curricular activities but our fees are the higher than any in the surrounding communities.

Class sizes have increased dramatically, especially in our eleventh and twelfth grade classes. We have made a commitment to provide smaller class sizes in our ninth and tenth grade classes. However, budget cuts have limited the number of course offerings and seniors and juniors were given preference in taking elective courses. Most ninth grade students have a directed study for one semester.

We are piloting a ninth grade team approach to ease the transition from eighth to ninth grade. Students in grade nine are divided into two teams and the teams share the same teachers for English, Math, Science and Social Studies. Teachers in each team meet to discuss and share ideas during a common planning time. We have also begun a Peer Mentoring Program. Sixty eleventh and twelfth grade students trained over this summer and have monthly mentoring programs with every ninth grade student. Each mentor has five ninth grade students they are responsible for mentoring over the school year. Mentoring topics include: time management, stress, setting goals and making positive choices. We believe that both of these initiatives along with Peer Tutoring and Peer Mediation will insure a smoother transition to high school.

Our Fine and Performing Arts students continue to be recognized for their outstanding achievements in all of the arts throughout the state. The Community Service Team has grown with over 400 students volunteering thousands of hours in a wide variety of community service projects that include the Boys and Girls Club in Salisbury, volunteering at the Page School's Apple Harvest, cleaning up along the Merrimack River and helping with Feline Rescue. Our students continue to learn how important it is to give back to the community in which they live. These are valuable life lessons that will enrich their lives and the lives of the people they touched with their community service.

Our MCAS scores continue to place our students in the top eighteenth percent statewide. The Class of 2006 scored 98% passing on the first try of the English Language Arts, 90% scored in the Proficient and Advanced categories and 94% passed the Mathematics with 80% scoring the Proficient and Advanced categories. Our SAT and Advanced Placement scores continue to place Pentucket above the national and state averages.

The members of the Class of 2005 were admitted to competitive colleges and post secondary programs that indicate that our courses are rigorous and prepare our students for the world outside of Pentucket High School.

2005 PENTUCKET GRADUATES

Arnofsky, Jared	Eubanks, Steven	Jackson, Matthew	Power, Christopher
Buckley, David	Farmer, Em	Jones, Stephanie	Pratt, Joel
Buckley, William	Ferrara, Ashley	Kamberalis, Corey	Provost, Meghan
Buell, Elisabeth	Fleuriel, Andrew	Kenyon, Ian	Putnam, Nicholas
Burke, Ryan	Francis, Nicole	Kilbridge, Kelley	Puzak, Andrew
Cambra, Jarred	Gaucher, Allison	Liffers, Kimberly	Roberts, Jason
Cardoza, Scott	Godomski, Mahgen	Martel, Brittany	Schale, Eric
Claridge, Michael	Hamel, Aimee	McDonough, Connor	Scheld, Kaitlin
Collins, Jennifer	Hamerstrom, Amy	McGinn-Morille, Margaret	Shaffer, Courtney
Constantino, Caroline	Harrington, Kelsey	Mendoza, Matthew	Sherman, Michael
Corbett, Alexander	Hart, Michael	Morrison, Matthew	Sielicki, Ashley
Cormier, Michael	Harville, Michael	Nucci, Thomas	Simmons, Kessa
Coyne, John	Hayes, William	O'Keefe, Meagan	Spang, Andrew
Davis, Gregory	Hoicroft, Charlotte	Ouellette, Raymond	Taylor, Abigail
Dolbeare, Chanelle	House, Geoff	Parry, Stephanie	Treado, Elisabeth
Domings, Daniel	Huff, Shawn	Pinciario, Alan	Troy, Patrick
Doud, Timothy	Hurcombe, James	Pinault, Candice	Willis, Matthew
Dykes, Douglas	Iredale, Derek	Pinzone, Robin	



ANNUAL REPORT OF WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen  
From: Paul Tucker, Whittier Representative  
Karen Sarkisian, Superintendent

Whittier offers 19 vocational technical career areas designed to provide the necessary training and skills for personal and work force success.

Whittier’s academic program is designed to offer students a broad base in fundamental skills through its core curriculum in English, Math, Science and Technology, Social Studies, World Languages, Physical Education/Health, and Elective subjects and to afford students with varying abilities the opportunity to succeed.

Courses are designed in a sequential format and are integrated with the vocational-technical areas, wherever practicable and mutually beneficial. All academic courses offer advanced sections for students who desire to further their education. Moreover, a Tech Prep program is offered to eleventh and twelfth grade students which parallels the College Prep program and provides students with the opportunity for college credit and/or advanced college placement.

Since all programs are open to both females and males, we encourage our students to explore and to specialize in non-stereotyped, non-traditional vocational-technical areas and to strive for the maximum realization of their goals and potential.

Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School is entering its thirty-third year. To date we have graduated 7,877 students from the day school.

The enrollment for the Evening School from Merrimac: 50.

The October 1, 2004 Day School Enrollment:

	Boys	Girls
Grade 9	0	3
Grade 10	8	2
Grade 11	8	5
Grade 12	8	1
Total —		35

2005 Graduates—9 .

The cost to Merrimac for the school year 2004-2005 was \$442,311.00.

Respectfully yours,

Paul M. Tucker  
Merrimac Representative  
  
Karen Sarkisian  
Superintendent

**ANNUAL REPORT  
BOARD of TRUSTEES  
MERRIMAC PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
For the year ending December 31, 2005

To the citizens of Merrimac:

The Trustees of Merrimac Public Library are pleased to report 2005 has been another banner year of expanded library services to the Town of Merrimac. The focal point of these improvements, obviously, is our new and excellent library facility, which continues to awe and delight.

As predicted before library construction started, library use has increased dramatically. This is not only reflected in expanded materials circulation, but also in general building use. For example, the increased use of our computer stations has grown to the point where time limits must be imposed during peak periods. Attendance at children's programs, use of quiet reading areas, periodical browsing, deployment of study carrels, and interest in the special collections room, have all steadily grown during the past year.

Daytime and evening use of the community meeting room has been tremendous. The short list of users would include the Boy and Girl Scouts, the Zoning Board of Appeals, Fire Department blood drive, Old Home Days community drama presentation, Citizens for a Strong Community, Christmas Bell Choir, and an extensive art exhibit. Starting next year, the town clerk will be using the room as the official voting station for all elections.

Expanded library activities and services have also presented the challenge of new and emerging library use policies. This is an ongoing and organic process. In shaping these policies we have sought the advice of the Board of Library Commissioners, other area libraries, and welcomed the input of Merrimac residents and patrons.

The new library facility has required additional time from the Board of Trustees in two areas. First has been completing the "loose ends" remaining from the construction project. These have ranged from improved parking lot drainage to balancing the heating and cooling systems. We are especially grateful to David Kern and Mark Hebenstreit for their continued devotion to the Building Committee. The second area involves mastery of maintenance issues associated with a new and large building complex. This covers matters such as janitorial service, snow removal, lawn mowing, and the budgets for the same.

There have been several trustee and staff changes during the year. Nan Becker, after two terms of tireless service as a trustee and Building Committee galvanizer, stepped down at the end of her term in May. We thank her for all that she has done. We also welcome new trustee Linda Getz who has already impressed us with her talents. After the elections, the board reorganized with Susan Coburn and Ellen Evans serving as co-chairs.

Regretfully, in September, Donald S. MacMillan decided to give up the library director's position and return to the private business sector. We commend him for his very important role as director during the critical period of new library construction and the gargantuan feat of moving the collection and making the transition to the new facility. After a lengthy and thorough search for a new and qualified library director, the Board of Trustees awarded the position to

former Assistant Director and Head of Circulation, Martina Follansbee. We sincerely wish the affable and talented Ms. Follansbee a long and successful tenure with Merrimac Public Library.

As in the past, we wish to thank the Friends of the Library for all of their help during the year. We also extend our appreciation to our many faithful volunteers.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Coburn & Ellen Evans, Co-Chairs

**LIBRARY REPORT**

The citizens of Merrimac are fortunate to have a jewel of a Library and I am delighted to be the new Director. This has been our first full year since the new Library opened its doors July 1, 2004. For 2005:

Residents of Merrimac checked out . . . . .	50,277 items
Number of Public Access Computers . . . . .	13
Wireless coverage . . . . .	100%
Hours open weekly . . . . .	40
Days open weekly . . . . .	6
# of Staff working 35 hours . . . . .	2
# of Staff working 30 hours or less . . . . .	3
Volunteer hours weekly . . . . .	22
Meeting Room bookings . . . . .	215
Total Library Holdings . . . . .	30,250
Supplementary Collection Holdings . . . . .	*6,720
Children’s Programs . . . . .	103

\* NMRLS Supplementary Collection is housed at the Library and its many large print books, audio books on CD and Tape, and Junior books are available for Merrimac citizens to check out.

I look forward to serving the community of Merrimac with better programs and services in the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Martina Follansbee  
Library Director



**TOWN OF MERRIMAC  
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES**

2 SCHOOL STREET • MERRIMAC, MA 01860

PH. (978) 346-0525 FAX (978) 346-0522

**2005 ANNUAL REPORT**

	CALENDAR YEAR		+/-	
	2005	2004		
<b>BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED</b>				
New 1+2 Family Dwelling	13	18	-5	
Residential Addition/Remodel	162	167	-5	
Accessory Building/Barn/Detached Garage	3	7	-4	
Fireplace & Wood/Coal/Pellet Stove (independent)	13	4	9	
Swimming Pools: In-ground and above-ground	15	24	-9	
New/New-Replacement Manufactured Housing (M.H.)	3	4	-1	
Permit for Temporary Housing Unit	0	1	-1	
Commercial—New/ Addition/Remodel	16	14	2	
Multi-family Dwelling: R3, R2, R1 (Building, not units)	2	5	-3	
Municipal Project	0	3	-3	
Demolition Permit (independent)	3	4	-1	
<b>NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>-21</b>	<b>-8%</b>
Value of Building Permits Issued	\$90,415.00	\$127,158.60		
Addendum to Open Building Permit	\$1,164.00	\$1,340.00		
Plan Review and Building Permit Transfer Fees	\$900.00	\$525.00		
Copy and Miscellaneous Fees Collected	\$33.00	\$25.00		
Non-residential Occupancy and Use	\$120.00	\$105.00		
780CMR, Sec. 106 Inspections	\$160.00	\$160.00		
			+/-	% Change
<b>Total Building Permit Fees</b>	<b>\$92,792.00</b>	<b>\$129,313.60</b>	<b>-\$36,521.60</b>	<b>-28%</b>
<b>Total Wiring Permit Fees</b>	<b>\$18,244.00</b>	<b>\$24,308.00</b>	<b>-\$6,064.00</b>	<b>-25%</b>
<b>Total Plumbing Permit Fees</b>	<b>\$10,690.00</b>	<b>\$10,195.00</b>	<b>\$495.00</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Total Gas Permit Fees</b>	<b>\$5,750.00</b>	<b>\$7,675.00</b>	<b>-\$1,925.00</b>	<b>-25%</b>
<b>Total Enforcement Action Fees Collected</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$195.00</b>	<b>\$205.00</b>	<b>105%</b>
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT FEES</b>	<b>\$127,876.60</b>	<b>\$171,686.60</b>	<b>-\$43,810.63</b>	<b>-26%</b>
<b>Fees Waived by Selectmen</b>	<b>\$817.00</b>	<b>\$4,051.00</b>		
<b>TOTAL COLLECTED REVENUE</b>	<b>\$127,059.00</b>	<b>\$167,635.60</b>	<b>-\$40,576.60</b>	<b>-24%</b>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Philip J. Hagopian  
Building Commissioner / Zoning Enforcement Officer



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC WATER DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 31, 2005

The Board of Water Commissioners and Manager are pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Merrimac Water Department for the year 2005.

**NEW CONNECTIONS:** During 2005, there were 12 new homes and 1 multi-unit dwelling totaling 24 units connected to the town's water system, bringing the total number of connections to 1,730.

**PRIVILEGE FEE:** \$48,800.00 was collected during 2005 from individuals and developers for new service connections and deposited to Water Department Privilege Fee account. MWD utilizes this funding for various improvements to our distribution system.

**SURPLUS FUNDS:** MWD ended FY05 with a surplus of \$54,822.66. Those funds are scheduled for transfer to the Water Department's Capital Fund for future system improvements.

**SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:** The Merrimac Water Department is constantly looking for ways to upgrade the water distribution system, but due to limited funding it is a slow process.

Both the Bear Hill and E. Main Street standpipes were cleaned and tested which happens every 5 years. They are both in good condition only requiring minor repairs.

The Light and Water Department upgraded our computer system to make the billing process more efficient.

Wells at both East Main and Bear Hill well fields were cleaned. The well cleaning by F.G. Sullivan Co. is performed to improve pumping capacity and water quality.

### ANNUAL PUMPING STATISTICS:

Gallons pumped from Bear Hill and East Main	136,076,000	a decrease of 18,878,400 from 2004
Gallons sold to customers	124,325,724	an increase of 1,303,544 from 2004
Gallons plant backwash	2,723,500	
Gallons unaccounted for	9,026,376	– 6.63% of all water pumped could not be accounted for. Causes: Fire protection, flushing, inaccurate meters, water theft and minor leaks not detectable

**IN THE FUTURE:** We would like to look into bonding for a water main replacement along a stretch of Bear Hill Rd and upgrading the distribution system on the Attitash Ave side of the lake. In 2006, we will upgrade the SCADA system at the Water Filtration Plant and Bear Hill Station and replace the garage doors at the Pump Station on Wallace Way.

The governing rules of the EPA and DEP are always changing and to keep up we have to implement new rules and procedures to comply. Without the support of the employees of the Water Department this would not be possible. My sincere thanks to all employees for their efforts and commitment to water quality throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Folding, Manager

Board of Water Commissioners

Louis Bibeau, Chairman	Term Expires 2006
Frederick Underwood	Term Expires 2007
Norman Denault	Term Expires 2008

**MERRIMAC WATER DEPARTMENT  
INCOME STATEMENT  
JULY 1, 2004-JUNE 30, 2005**

**REVENUE**

Residential, Commercial, Municipal Rates . . . . .	699,718.31
Water Sprinklers . . . . .	3,674.04
Water Miscellaneous . . . . .	11,893.96
Fiscal Year Liens . . . . .	1,030.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE COLLECTED . . . . .</b>	<b>716,316.41</b>

**EXPENSES**

Managers Salary . . . . .	20,117.52
Office Salary . . . . .	23,469.12
Water Dept. Wages . . . . .	154,128.80
Overtime . . . . .	28,639.30
Office Supplies . . . . .	22,143.89
Fuel Heat . . . . .	10,067.17
Purchased Power . . . . .	35,442.88
Stock . . . . .	63,692.93
Transportation . . . . .	6,011.03
Engineering . . . . .	10,220.93
Real Estate Taxes (NH) . . . . .	2,905.00
Water Testing . . . . .	8,342.45
Chemicals . . . . .	29,646.54
Cross Connection . . . . .	1,980.00
Well Cleaning . . . . .	25,689.12
Roadway & Excavation . . . . .	13,000.00
Commissioners Salary . . . . .	0
Longevity Pay . . . . .	584.00
Clothing/Boot Allowance . . . . .	1,771.70
Water Conservation . . . . .	600.00
Benefit Reimbursement . . . . .	64,789.10

**TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES . . . . . 523,241.48**

**TOTAL WATER BOND EXPENSE . . . . . 155,525.50**

**TOTAL DIRECT AND BOND EXPENSE . . . . . 678,766.48**

**GROSS PROFIT . . . . . 37,549.93**

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

The following is a report of the Board of Sewer Commissioners for calendar year 2005. The Merrimac Wastewater Treatment Facility is an extended aeration oxidation ditch process designed to treat 450,000 gallons of raw sewage and 1,000 gallons of septage per day. The wastewater process generated wet sludge that was recycled for agricultural re-use, as approved by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Many homes have sewer available to them and are not connected to the system. The Board urges those people to connect, as capacity is not saved at the plant. In 2005, 22 houses were connected to the system.

An Administrative Consent Order (ACO) was issued in October 2002, requiring the Town of Merrimac to upgrade its wastewater treatment facility to meet requirements stated in the Mass DEP Permit has now been satisfied.

### REVENUE FISCAL YEAR 2005

Invoiced User Fees	844,387.19	†(49,872.99)
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#### Collected:

User Fees	824,868.65
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Liens	1,541.96
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Fees - Permits & Misc.	4,799.20
------------------------	----------

Total Collected	831,159.81
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#### Expenditures Fiscal Year 2005

O&M	611,089.63
-----	------------

Debt Service	211,902.50
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Total Spent	<u>822,992.13</u>
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Gain	8,167.68
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#### Development Fund

Balance end of Fiscal Year 2004	142,381.35
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Collected Fiscal Year 2005	133,187.19
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Total Collected	275,568.54
-----------------	------------

Expended	<u>41,743.27</u>
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Balance End of Fiscal Year 2005	233,825.27
---------------------------------	------------

†Uncollected user Fees

Respectfully Submitted,  
BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Richard L. Herbert, Chairman

Term Expires 2008

Michael P. Fall, Clerk

Term Expires 2007

John G. Buzzell, Sr.

Term Expires 2006



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC LIGHT DEPARTMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2005

The Board of Light Commissioners and Manager are pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Merrimac Light Department for the year 2005.

**NEW SERVICES:** During 2005, there were a total of 69 new electrical services added to the town's electric distribution system. The total number of electric meters in service at year's end was 2,729.

**SYSTEM UPGRADES and TRIMMING:** Upgrades were completed in the Bear Hill, West Shore, Shore, Lanes Ten Acres and Spencer Way areas. We are continually upgrading the distribution system to increase reliability for existing customers and to stay ahead of the demand for the future. We anticipate upgrading the East Main Street, Attitash, Hillside, Pleasant View, Fern, Meadow View, Merrimac Ave and Bisson Lane areas for 2006.

The yearly trimming was performed by John Brown and Sons. They will be doing the trimming for the year to come, areas to include Church St, River Rd, North St, Union St, Pleasant St, West Shore Rd and numerous other streets.

**WE CELEBRATED OUR 5th ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING:** In the month of December, we decorate Kimball Park for our annual tree lighting ceremonies. Santa and a few of his helpers were there, which drew a big crowd. We celebrate the season by having our tree lighting on the same day as the Merrimac Santa Parade, which is always the first Sunday in December. Thanks to all the people who made it such a great success.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TOWN:

<b>In Lieu of Tax Payment:</b>	<b>\$42,500.00</b>
<b>Unbilled Streetlight Usage:</b>	<b>\$16,045.60</b>

**ELECTRIC RATES:** Our mission is to keep the electric rates as low as possible and still maintain a reliable distribution system. At times like this past summer, it has become increasingly difficult to maintain that low rate. We are in the midst of a cost of service rate study to determine if the rate in town may have to increase in the coming years. The reason for the survey is that our power contract runs out on December 31, 2008. The current prices for power are well above what we are paying now. We will keep you informed of the outcome of the study.

**COMMUNITY:** The Merrimac Light Department is a Public Utility, meaning it is owned by its ratepayers and not by a board of directors, like the investor-owned utilities. That means that when you call or come into the office you get to talk to a person. Someone who will help you with questions that you may have about your bill or your electric service. We at the Merrimac Light and Water Department are here to serve the community.

The people who make this utility work for you - the employees and Commissioners - are the people who made this year work for all of us. They deserve our praise and my gratitude.

Respectfully Submitted, Board of Light Commissioners

Daniel Folding, Manager	Louis Bibeau, Chairman	Term Expires 2006
	Frederick Underwood	Term Expires 2007
	Norman Denault	Term Expires 2008



**MERRIMAC ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET 2005**

<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>	<b>Balance Beginning of Year</b>	<b>Balance End of Year</b>	<b>Increase or (Decrease)</b>
<b>UTILITY PLANT</b>			
101 Utility Plant — Electric .....	2,524,284.24	2,546,796.66	22,512.42
<b>FUND ACCOUNTS</b>			
125 Sinking Funds .....	719.17	719.17	0.00
126 Depreciation Fund .....	914,397.87	1,097,042.61	182,644.74
126 1 Rate Stabilization Fund .....	0.00	112,823.42	112,823.42
<b>CURRENT AND ACCRUED ASSETS</b>			
131 Cash .....	41,178.54	19,705.91	(21,472.63)
132 Special Deposits .....	41,534.16	34,776.21	(6,757.95)
132 Working Funds .....	200.00	200.00	0.00
142 Customer Accounts Receivable .....	132,391.25	150,946.95	18,555.70
143 Other Accounts Receivable .....			
146 Receivables from Municipality .....			
151 Materials and Supplies .....	15,001.94	15,001.94	0.00
165 Prepayments .....	19,617.00	19,617.00	0.00
165 Prepayments CTC charge .....	558,000.00	372,000.00	(186,000.00)
<b>DEFERRED DEBITS</b>			
183 Other Deferred Debits .....	6,361.25	1,779.10	(4,582.15)
<b>Total Assets and Other Debits</b>	<b><u>4,253,685.42</u></b>	<b><u>4,371,408.97</u></b>	<b><u>117,723.55</u></b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>			
<b>SURPLUS</b>			
206 Loans Repayments .....	942,417.96	1,034,847.96	92,430.00
207 Appropriations for Construction Repayments .....	8,889.05	8,889.05	0.00
208 Unappropriated Earned Surplus .....	2,152,427.47	2,018,996.68	(133,430.79)
<b>LONG TERM DEBT</b>			
221 Bonds .....			
231 Notes Payable .....	274,290.00	181,860.00	(92,430.00)
<b>CURRENT AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES</b>			
232 Accounts Payable .....	158,312.87	370,634.06	212,321.19
235 Customer Deposits .....	41,534.16	34,776.21	(6,757.95)
242 Miscellaneous Current and Accrued Liabilities .....	6,361.25	1,779.10	(4,582.15)
<b>DEFERRED CREDITS</b>			
252 Customer Advances for Construction .....	1,220.67	1,220.67	0.00
<b>RESERVES</b>			
260 Reserves for Uncollectible Accounts .....	5,799.12	5,799.12	0.00
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF CONSTRUCTION</b>			
271 Contributions in Aid of Construction .....	662,432.87	712,606.12	50,173.25
<b>Total Liabilities and Other Credits</b>	<b><u>4,253,685.42</u></b>	<b><u>4,371,408.97</u></b>	<b><u>117,723.55</u></b>

**MERRIMAC ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2005**

	Current Year	Increase or (Decrease) from Preceding Year
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>		
400 Operating Revenue .....	2,946,393.94	261,605.08
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
401 Operation Expense .....	2,543,148.76	514,583.57
402 Maintenance Expense .....	173,635.42	(82,535.06)
403 Depreciation Expense .....	168,584.28	(96,952.43)
<b>Total Operating Expenses .....</b>	<b>2,885,368.47</b>	<b>335,096.08</b>
<b>Operating Income .....</b>	<b>61,025.47</b>	<b>(73,490.20)</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
415 Income from Merchandising, Jobbing and Contract Work .....	0.00	0.00
419 Interest Income .....	30,464.35	14,253.08
421 Miscellaneous Nonoperating Income .....		
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>91,489.82</b>	<b>(59,237.12)</b>
<b>INTEREST CHARGES</b>		
427 Interest on Bonds and Notes .....	13,988.40	(4,612.32)
431 Other Interest Expense .....		
<b>Total Interest Charges .....</b>	<b><u>13,988.40</u></b>	<b><u>(4,612.32)</u></b>
<b>NET INCOME .....</b>	<b><u>77,501.42</u></b>	<b><u>(54,624.80)</u></b>

	Debits	Credits
208 Unappropriated Earned Surplus (at beginning of period) .....		2,152,427.47
433 Balance Transferred from Income .....		77,501.42
434 Miscellaneous Credits to Surplus .....		8,738.08
435 Miscellaneous Debits to Surplus .....	161,124.49	
436 Appropriations of Surplus .....	58,545.60	
437 Surplus Applied to Depreciation .....		
208 Unappropriated Earned Surplus (at end of period) .....	<b><u>2,018,996.88</u></b>	
	<b><u>2,238,666.77</u></b>	<b><u>2,238,666.77</u></b>

## RECYCLING COMMITTEE 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

### Curbside Recycling

During 2005, Merrimac residents recycled 392 tons of mixed paper and 135 tons of mixed recyclables including cans, glass, and plastic. This represents 31 percent of the total waste generated that has been taking out of the waste stream. Residents are encouraged to continue to recycle. Details of what can and should be recycled is available at Town Hall and on the town's website. Recycling bins are currently available at Town Hall.

### Yard Waste Site

Approximately 8 tons of biodegradable material including leaves, grass, and brush was collected in the 2005 season. Approximately 50 Christmas trees were collected in January. The Recycling Committee appreciates the continued support of the highway department for chipping brush, loading materials, and helping to maintain the site.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

In July, 113 residents took advantage of this event safely disposing of hazardous materials. Items collected included: propane tanks, tires, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil based paint, flammable liquids, and pesticides; and used motor oil. A fee of \$5.00 per car was charged to offset the cost of the program. The town is charged \$24 - \$39 per carload by Clean Harbors, the state-approved company hired to handle the hazardous waste. Separate fees were charged for items including: car batteries, propane tanks, and tires. Residents who had obsolete electronics were directed to Allied Computer Brokers in Amesbury.

### Programs

For the second year in a row, Mrs. Simmons fourth grade class is participating in the Green Team program run by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Cans and water bottles are being recycled at the Donaghue School. Ink jet and laser printer cartridges are being collected for recycling at both the Sweetsir and Donaghue schools. Paper recycling in both elementary schools, Town Hall and the library continues as well. Current information is available to all residents on the town's website: <http://www.merrimac01860.info>, as well as through the state run Earth911.org site or by calling 1-800-CLEANUP.

Respectfully Submitted,  
RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Dawn Ackerman  
Jim Brown  
Alicia Quarrier  
Michael Miracle



**TOWN OF MERRIMAC**  
**FINANCE DIRECTOR**  
4 School Street  
Merrimac, MA 01860  
Phone (978) 346-0524  
Fax (978) 346-8863  
E-Mail: mcleodmer@adelphia.net

**Honorable Board of Selectmen**  
**Town of Merrimac**  
**Massachusetts, 01860**

Honorable Selectmen:

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Annual Financial Report of the Town Accountant for the Town of Merrimac, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005 is herewith submitted.

The data represents a fair and accurate presentation in all material aspects of the Town's financial position and the results of its operations. Disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain an understanding of the Town's financial affairs have been presented. Included are schedules on debt issue and servicing, a detailed listing of revenues and expenditures, a balance sheet for all fund types and account groups, and a combined statement of cash flows.

The reports are based on information recorded using the Uniform Municipal Accounting System (UMAS) of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. The same information was used to prepare the Schedule A.

An audit of the Town's financial records by Bill Fraher, C.P.A., has been completed and the results of this audit are available in my office for public inspection. The books of the Town are also open for public inspection during normal business hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol A. McLeod  
Finance Director & Treasurer

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES  
BUDGETARY BASIS - GENERAL FUND  
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2005**

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Property Taxes	\$ 7,123,155	\$ 7,094,418	\$ (28,737)
Excise Taxes	696,000	726,898	30,898
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	14,300	73,329	59,029
Departmental Charges for Services	1,715,444	1,728,903	13,459
Licenses and Permit	136,500	126,775	(9,725)
Intergovernmental	1,214,807	1,215,870	1,063
Fines	64,000	59,337	(4,663)
Special Assessments	25,000	42,489	17,489
Investment Income	50,000	32,163	(17,837)
Other	245,500	281,028	35,528
Total Revenue	<u>11,284,706</u>	<u>11,381,210</u>	<u>96,504</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
General Government	562,785	552,176	10,609
Public Safety	966,206	952,004	14,202
Education	4,997,588	4,997,417	171
Public Works	1,976,105	1,976,566	(461)
Human Services	190,902	186,481	4,421
Culture and Recreation	209,334	207,412	1,922
Debt Service	1,466,757	1,466,111	646
State and County Assessments	70,699	70,699	0
Employee Benefits	389,047	386,063	2,984
Insurance	99,935	95,490	4,445
Total Expenditures	<u>10,929,358</u>	<u>10,890,419</u>	<u>38,939</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditures	355,348	490,791	135,443
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>			
Special Articles/Other Sources (Uses)	(505,399)	(505,399)	0
Operating Transfers In	347,768	347,768	0
Operating Transfers (Out)	<u>(197,717)</u>	<u>(197,717)</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditures and other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>\$ (0)</u>	<u>\$ 135,443</u>	<u>\$ 135,443</u>

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC**  
**COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**  
**NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types		
	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Stabilization Fund	Other Trust and Agency Funds	Total
Revenues:					
Department Charges for Services	\$ 439,018			\$ 56,275	\$ 56,275
Intergovernmental	\$ 7,410				\$ 439,018
Investment Income	\$ 433,363		\$ 3,806	\$ 12,419	\$ 23,635
Other				\$ 7,500	\$ 440,863
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 879,791</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 3,806</u>	<u>\$ 76,194</u>	<u>\$ 959,791</u>
Expenditures:					
Current					
General Government	\$ 9,874			\$ 40,283	\$ 50,157
Public Safety	\$ 189,759				\$ 189,759
Public Works	\$ 155,947			24,276	\$ 180,223
Human Services	\$ 28,573				\$ 28,573
Recreation and Culture	\$ 521,315			5,164	\$ 526,479
Capital Outlay		\$ 1,762,616			\$ 1,762,616
Total Expenditure	<u>\$ 905,468</u>	<u>1,762,616</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 69,723</u>	<u>\$ 2,737,807</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditure	\$ (25,677)	\$ (1,762,616)	\$ 3,806	\$ 6,471	\$ (1,778,016)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Proceeds from Bonds Issues	\$ 5,000	175,000			\$ 215,942
Operating Transfers In	\$ (201,844)		\$ 35,942		\$ 215,942
Operating Transfer Out			(101,500)		(303,344)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>\$ (196,844)</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>\$ (65,558)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (87,402)</u>
Net Changes in Fund Balances	\$ (222,521)	\$ (1,587,616)	\$ (61,752)	\$ 6,471	\$ (1,865,418)
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	<u>\$ 878,492</u>	<u>2,192,499</u>	<u>\$ 474,864</u>	<u>\$ 394,861</u>	<u>\$ 3,940,716</u>
Fund Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 655,971</u>	<u>604,883</u>	<u>\$ 413,112</u>	<u>\$ 401,332</u>	<u>\$ 2,075,298</u>



**TOWN OF MERRIMAC  
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET – ALL FUNDS  
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

	Governmental Fund Types				Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Group	
	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Stabilization Fund	Other Trust and Agency Funds	General Long-Term Obligations	Total (Memorandum only)
Assets							
Cash and Cash Equivalents	768,757	656,972	604,883	413,112	405,276		2,867,000
Accounts Receivable	857,724						857,724
Due From Other Governments	0	93,243					193,243
Amount to be Provided for Payment of Bonds						13,378,763	13,378,763
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,644,481</u>	<u>\$ 750,215</u>	<u>\$ 604,883</u>	<u>\$ 413,112</u>	<u>\$ 405,276</u>	<u>\$ 13,378,763</u>	<u>\$ 17,196,730</u>
Liabilities and Fund Equity							
Liabilities							
Warrants, Accounts, and Bonds Payable	(7,731)					13,378,763	13,371,032
Short Term Notes Payable							0
Deferred Revenue, Other Liabilities	857,724						857,724
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 849,993</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 13,378,763</u>	<u>\$ 14,228,756</u>
Fund Balances							
Reserved for Specific Purposes	560,190						560,190
Unreserved	234,298	750,215	604,883	413,112	405,276		2,407,784
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 794,488</u>	<u>\$ 750,215</u>	<u>\$ 604,883</u>	<u>\$ 413,112</u>	<u>\$ 405,276</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,967,974</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>\$ 1,644,481</u>	<u>\$ 750,215</u>	<u>\$ 604,883</u>	<u>\$ 413,112</u>	<u>\$ 405,276</u>	<u>\$ 13,378,763</u>	<u>\$ 17,196,730</u>

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC  
GENERAL LONG TERM DEBT ACTIVITY  
FISCAL YEAR 2005**

Issue	Issue Date	Interest Rate	Original Amount	Balance 7/1/04	Additions	Retired	Balance 6/30/04	Interest Paid 7/1/04-6/30/05
Multi-Purpose Loan	8/15/1995	4.5% - 7.5%	\$ 1,105,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,250.00
Title V	4/29/1999	0%	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 144,304.92	\$ -	\$ 11,100.36	\$ 133,204.56	\$ -
Multi-Purpose Loan	12/15/1999	5.125% - 6.5%	\$ 1,910,000.00	\$ 1,440,000.00	\$ -	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 1,335,000.00	\$ 73,545.64
Multi-Purpose Loan	12/15/2000	5.10%	\$ 999,000.00	\$ 549,000.00	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 399,000.00	\$ 24,174.00
River Road MWPAT	10/6/1999		\$ 149,856.00	\$ 127,420.00	\$ -	\$ 5,862.00	\$ 121,558.00	\$ 1,259.08
Multi-Purpose Loan	6/28/2001	5.5% - 5.75%	\$ 310,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 10,010.00
Multi-Purpose Loan	4/5/2002	3.79%	\$ 356,000.00	\$ 230,000.00	\$ -	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 8,717.00
Refunded	10/15/2002	2.5% - 4.6%	\$ 4,820,000.00	\$ 4,625,000.00	\$ -	\$ 520,000.00	\$ 4,105,000.00	\$ 147,437.50
Town Hall	10/15/2002	2.5% - 4.6%	\$ 2,850,000.00	\$ 2,705,000.00	\$ -	\$ 145,000.00	\$ 2,560,000.00	\$ 102,670.00
Sewer	10/15/2002	2.5% - 4.6%	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 3,615.00
Multi-Purpose Loan	11/15/2003	2% - 4.5%	\$ 4,231,000.00	\$ 4,231,000.00	\$ -	\$ 231,000.00	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ 152,562.50
Multi-Purpose Loan	4/15/2004	3.75%	\$ 405,000.00	\$ 405,000.00	\$ -	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 15,187.50
<b>Total All</b>				<b>\$14,776,724.92</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,397,962.36</b>	<b>\$13,378,762.56</b>	<b>\$ 541,428.22</b>
<b>Less: Electric</b>			<b>\$ 640,000.00</b>	<b>\$ (364,720.00)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (90,430.00)</b>	<b>\$ (274,290.00)</b>	<b>\$ (16,294.76)</b>
<b>Total Excluding Electric</b>				<b>\$14,412,004.92</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,307,532.36</b>	<b>\$13,104,472.56</b>	<b>\$ 525,133.46</b>

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board of Assessors respectfully submits the following report for the calendar year 2005.

During 2005, the Board of Assessors did a review of all residential 2004 sales. This review indicated that the ratio of assessed prices to sales prices was well below the 90% mandated by the Department of Revenue. There were a number of homes that fell in the mid 80% range and a larger number of homes that fell in the mid 60% range. A closer look at these sales revealed that all those in the 80% range were twenty (20) years or less in age. Those that fell in the 60% range were over twenty years in age. Adjustments were made and reviewed by the Department of Revenue and approved.

For the coming year, we will be doing our scheduled recertification based on 2005 sales for Fiscal 2007. As this is being written, we are in the process of requesting bids for the work.

The "Elderly Work-off Program" is in its' first year and doing well. The Assessors, a member of the Board of Selectmen and Senior Center staff will be meeting in March 2006 to review and prepare for the second year.

The Board of Assessors

Edward R. Davis, Chairman	Term expires 2006
Diane F. Cole	Term expires 2007
Joyce Clohecy	Term expires 2008

Joyce Clohecy  
Clerk

Michelle Barry  
Assistant Clerk



**ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS  
Tax Rate Recapitulation Fiscal 2005**

1. Tax Rate Summary

A. Total Amount to be Raised	\$13,158,103.52
B. Total Estimated Receipts & Revenue	5,281,285.54
C. Net Amount to be Raised by Taxation (Levy)	7,876,817.98
D. Classified Tax Levies	
1. Residential	96.0169%
2. Open Space	0
3. Commercial	2.2657
4. Industrial	1.0721
5. Personal Property	0.6453
	<u>100.0000%</u>

2. Amount to Raise

A. Appropriation	\$12,984,383.54
B. Overly Deficit prior years	3,599.41
C. Cherry Sheet Offsets	7,412.00
D. Snow and Ice deficit Ch44 Sec 31.d	37,274.75
C. State & County Cherry Sheet Charges	78,905.00
D. Overlay	46,528.82
Total Amount to be Raised	\$13,158,103.52

3. Estimated Receipts and Other Revenue

A. Estimated Receipts — State	\$ 1,253,860.00
B. Estimated Receipts — Local	3,046,476.00
C. Revenue Sources Appropriated	967,949.54
D. Other Revenues to Reduce Tax Rate	13,000.00
Total Estimated Receipts	\$ 5,281,285.54

Number of Taxable Accounts

Residential Single	1,549
Residential Two	116
Residential Three	7
Residential Apt Bldg	18
Residential Land	202
Condominiums	169
Commercial	53
Industrial	21
Commercial Other	57
Personal Property	123

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The Merrimac Planning Board has completed its first full year operating under the new Zoning Bylaws with great success. We continue to work with the Town's consultants in further defining the bylaws and zoning maps in an effort to insure that the plan for the future growth of Merrimac is consistent and in keeping with the wishes of the residents who approved these changes.

The Planning Board meets a minimum of twice a month. In 2005, we oversaw 3 approved subdivisions, endorsed 5 ANR plans, 1 definitive subdivision plan, and approved 3 Special Permits. Lastly, we held 8 separate Preconception Conferences with 4 having returned on more than one occasion. We also reinstated the Memorandum of Agreement with the Housing Authority and are working toward approval of affordable housing units within the community.

In conclusion, I want to recognize our members who devote many hours of their time to serving the residents of Merrimac: Vice Chairman Raymond Gingras, Robert Sinibaldi, John Thomas and Sandra Venner. Lastly, the entire board's appreciation of our secretary, Patricia True.

It has been a pleasure to serve the citizens of Merrimac and we all look forward to another busy and productive year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ricky J. Pinciario  
Chairman

## ANNUAL REPORT– OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

Gentlemen:

As Town Clerk of the Town of Merrimac, I hereby submit my annual report for the year 2005

### BIRTHS

Number of Births Recorded . . . . .	54
Males . . . . .	32
Females . . . . .	22
Father, Native Born . . . . .	51
Mother, Native Born . . . . .	53
Both Parents Native Born . . . . .	50
Both Parents Foreign Born . . . . .	---
Mixed Parentage . . . . .	3

### MARRIAGES

Number of Marriages Recorded . . . . .	24
First Marriage, Male . . . . .	18
First Marriage, Female . . . . .	18
Male Native Born . . . . .	23
Female Native Born . . . . .	21
Average Age, Male . . . . .	34yrs 8m
Average Age, Female . . . . .	32yrs 7m

### DEATHS

Number of Deaths Recorded . . . . .	31
Males . . . . .	19
Females . . . . .	12
Under 5 years . . . . .	1
Males, Native Born . . . . .	18
Females, Native Born . . . . .	12
Parents, Native Born . . . . .	23
Parents, Foreign Born . . . . .	3
Mixed parentage . . . . .	4
Average Age . . . . .	73yrs-8m
Oldest Person . . . . .	91

### LICENSES

Total Dog Licenses . . . . .	687
Male . . . . .	22
Female . . . . .	23
Spayed . . . . .	320
Neutered . . . . .	322
Kennel Licenses . . . . .	---
Sporting Licenses . . . . .	129
Minor's Sporting Licenses . . . . .	1

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia E. True  
Town Clerk



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL OFFICER

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen: Activities from Jan 1, 2005 to Dec 31, 2005

The number of dogs licensed for the license year April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 was 687. Dog licensing remains a challenge, as many residents do not respond to post card reminders or notices in the paper to obtain a dog license. Licensing dogs provides proof of a current rabies vaccination in the event of a dog bite and is also the best protection against rabies being transferred to humans.

Twenty-three dogs were picked up running at large. The fines are paid to the Merrimac General Fund. Two dogs were strays a black lab and a Chihuahua. Five cats were picked up and three were returned to owners and two were strays. One ferret was picked up and returned to its owner.

Ten animals were injured and taken to veterinarians. Four dogs and three cats were known to be killed on roadways. Other reported dead animals were: bat, beaver, raccoon, opossum, rat, porcupine, woodchuck, deer, and various birds. West Nile and Eastern Encephalitis were found in Merrimac. Tested for rabies were a cat, which was negative and a bat, which was positive.

Quarantined for ten days for biting humans were four dogs. Quarantined for 45 days (valid rabies but possible rabies contact) were one dog and one cat. Quarantined for 6 months (no valid rabies vaccination and possible contact with rabid animal) were three cats. The annual town Rabies Clinic was held on April 27, 2005 from 12 to 2 pm.

There were 36 Nuisance complaints and 23 Barking dog complaints. Calls for lost dogs were 20 and found dogs were 48. Calls for lost cats were 20 and found cats were 20. These numbers include callers from other towns, cell phone calls, a quick sighting of an animal, a strange animal seen in the area, etc. A license tag will help your dog get home and avoid additional Pound costs. Cats should also wear tags and collars.

There were 54 calls concerning wildlife. Most callers were given information and wildlife facts for living with and adapting to our wild neighbors. As our increasing less rural community copes with increased sightings and interaction between people and wildlife, there is a need to be reassured that human health and safety is not threatened. Three principals issues are necessary for resolutions of human-wildlife conflicts: (1) respect for the environment (2) tolerance and understanding of living things (3) willingness to resolve conflicts using non-lethal means.

Respectfully Submitted,

Madelyn Cirinna  
Animal Care and Control Officer

## ANNUAL REPORT OF CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

As in other years, departments were asked to submit forms documenting their capital requests for FY'06 and the next five years. Capital items included on the request forms and on the inventory forms maintained by the departments must have life duration of at least five years and initial cost of \$5,000 or more. In March, the committee met with the departments and reviewed supporting documents to determine its recommendations. The criteria applied for developing recommendations in order of priority are: a.) necessary to respond to state or federal mandate; b.) public health and/or safety consideration; or c.) operational necessity. The available source of funding for each item is also taken into consideration in making the recommendations.

At the Special Town Meeting on May 2, 2005, the CPC supported the vote to transfer from Free Cash \$146,775 to the Water Surplus Fund to give to the department surplus water revenues collected in FY'02 thru '04 for which the department had not been credited. At the May 2005 Annual Town Meeting, the CPC recommended expenditures for eight capital items ranging from \$5,000 to \$60,000 for a total of \$174,000 funded through Free Cash – all were voted affirmatively. \$77,616 was also transferred from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund. Other capital expenditures that were recommended and voted include borrowing \$118,000 for purchase of an ambulance and \$135,000 for sewer work and new driveway at the Sweetsir School. (It was noted that the latter might be the responsibility of the Regional School District, not the town.)

A report from the CPC was distributed to Town Meeting voters. The report included an analysis of the multi-year property tax impact of recently voted debt exclusions for major capital projects, and recently voted general overrides. It also included a summary of the recommendations for articles appearing on the warrants, a five-year history of the Stabilization Fund, and a listing of departments' requested capital expenditures through FY'10.

At a Special Town Meeting on October 24, 2005, the CPC recommended support for the creation of Enterprise Funds for the water and wastewater treatment operations in the town. As both of these operations are self-supporting from revenues raised through fees, it was determined that the independent funds would simplify accounting and budgeting.

At a Special Town Meeting on November 21, 2005, the CPC reluctantly supported the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$209,848 to supplement the Pentucket Regional District FY'06 assessment to the town due to an unforeseen budget shortfall. This additional assessment will be transferred from the Stabilization Fund, as the town has no other source of revenue available. If this transfer is made, the Stabilization Fund will drop significantly below the recommended 5-10% of the operating budget for the town. The balance in the Stabilization Fund has held at around 5% for FY'04 thru '06 after having been at about 7.5% in FY' 02 and '03. An inadequate amount in the Stabilization Fund can lower the town's bond rating, negatively affecting the rate of interest when the town next needs to borrow for a major capital project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Venner, Chairperson

Michael Baumert, Representing Finance Committee

Carol Traynor, Representing Board of Selectmen

Ed Madden

Janet Bruno



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OF MERRIMAC OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The Committee's mission is to work to protect the natural resources of Merrimac, the gems of green space that we too often take for granted, until they are threatened by development.

In October 2004, the Committee received approval at Town Meeting to spend not more than \$8,000 from its Open Space Preservation Account for the purpose of hiring a consultant to complete the Committee's Open Space Plan. This plan, required by the State in order to secure any grants or other state-sponsored funds, has been in draft form for several years. The board hired the firm, Communities Opportunity Group (COG), for their expertise and relevant work experience on Merrimac's recently completed Master Plan. As part of this process, the Committee conducted focus groups in the spring of 2005 to hear input from residents. Participants in these focus groups included representatives from the recreational and agricultural communities, as well as interested individuals. The Plan is now nearly complete and will provide a road map for the town in order to secure parcels of land that are deemed important or significant to the character of the town.

Additionally, the Committee has worked hard to increase public awareness of town conservation lands and trails through the production of a trail map (copies are available at Town Hall) and the posting of signs. One of the Committee's most important goals is to increase the use and enjoyment of the open space lands that the town already owns. It is only through this use that they are truly appreciated. The Committee commissioned the construction of a trail kiosk for a major trailhead to the Town Forest. The kiosk is expected to be completed and installed by mid-spring 2006. The Committee is also working with the local land trust organization, Essex County Greenbelt Association, to secure permanent protection for the town's open space parcels.

Open Space pays the town back in several ways. It is the reason for the Committee's existence:

- Open Space protection saves the town money. Development increases demands for schools, roads, water, and related infrastructure.
- Open Space increases the quality of life for all residents. A healthy environment provides clean water, clean air, recreation, and increased property values. It provides scenic vistas and recreational areas both active and passive.
- Open Space provides biological diversity for deer, bald eagles, otters, herons, as well as for other rare plant and animal species.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Open Space Committee

Deborah Woodward, Chair

Michelle Carley

Tom Graziano

Nancy Perkins

Roy Rigordaeve

Donna Tierney

Sandra Venner



## MERRIMAC CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

The primary function of the Conservation Commission is to protect and preserve wetland resource areas as defined in the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and the Merrimac Wetland Protection Bylaw. Since Colonial times, Massachusetts has lost nearly one third of its wetlands to development. The loss of wetlands means the loss of the vital benefits they provide. These benefits include the protection of water quality for Merrimac's surface and ground waters, storm water and flood damage protection, and the protection of wildlife and plant habitat.

The Commission works to protect the Town's natural resources in accordance with the Act and the Town Bylaw. The Conservation Commission is composed of seven members who serve as unpaid volunteers, who are assisted by a part-time Wetland Agent. The Commission generally meets once a month on the second Wednesday of the month to conduct regular business and public hearings on proposed projects under the Commission's jurisdiction. When necessary, the Commission schedules special meetings and site visits to review projects. During the course of this year, twelve regular meetings were held and nine site visits were conducted. There were twenty-eight projects filed with the Commission, primarily involving construction of subdivision roads and utilities, new single-family homes, and additions to existing buildings throughout Merrimac. In addition to reviewing proposed projects submitted by property owners, the Commission addresses work that affects wetlands conducted without the required permits. In 2005, four enforcement orders were issued to property owners regarding work undertaken in violation of the Act.

This year, the Commission continued to implement the additional protection measures provided in the Merrimac Wetland Protection Bylaw and the Merrimac Wetland Protection Regulations when considering proposed projects in Town. The Bylaw was adopted at Town Meeting in the fall of 2003, and it became effective in late 2003. During 2004, the Commission expended considerable effort to draft the Merrimac Wetlands Protection Regulations, which were subsequently adopted in August 2004. The regulations include a number of provisions to strengthen protection of Merrimac's wetlands including:

1. Provide added protection to wetlands with no or limited protection by state law such as isolated wetlands and vernal pools--wetlands that hold water in the spring long enough to provide critical breeding habitat for frogs, salamanders and other aquatic life and most dry up by mid-summer. Vernal pools are rare in the landscape. Many vernal pools are small, isolated wetlands that have little or no protection under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act.
2. Establish a no-disturb zone surrounding wetlands to protect wetlands from new development and encroachment from existing development.
3. Allow the Commission to issue fines to irresponsible property owners who ignore orders issued by the Commission and damage wetland resources.
4. Allow the town to charge reasonable application fees to defray the cost of administering the Bylaw.

The Commission is now applying the requirements of the new regulations to any project in town. If you are contemplating any work within 100 feet of a wetland or within 200 feet of any river or stream that flows year-round (such as the Merrimack River and Cobblers Brook), you need to consult with the Commission prior to undertaking any work.

Wetlands are an important resource to Merrimac. They protect, filter, and provide the high quality of water in our wells. They protect and support fish and wildlife in Lake Attitash, the Merrimack River, and other water bodies in town. They provide habitat and food sources for the birds, reptiles, amphibians and other animals that make Merrimac a unique place to live. They provide large tracts of open and undeveloped land that make up the quality of life we all enjoy in Merrimac. The Commission is eager to assist landowners in their decisions about whether and how to proceed with a project near wetlands. We encourage all residents to contact us regarding any questions or concerns related to the Towns wetland resources. The Commission is always looking for interested citizens who may want to become involved in working to protect the valuable wetland resources we all share in Merrimac. If you have an interest or expertise in protecting wetlands, please contact any of the Commission members, or just attend one of the meetings, to get involved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merrimac Conservation Commission

Robert Prokop, Chairman

Eleanor Hope-McCarthy

Jon Pearson

Tim Simmons

Janet Terry

Deborah Woodward

Arthur Yarranton

## 200f ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health meets at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month. We may be contacted at 978-346-4066. The office is staffed on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

During 2005, the Board of Health has continued to participate in the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan for our region. Edward Gallagher and Eileen Stepanian, Town Nurse, are our primary representatives and contacts in this program.

Edward Gallagher is the Health Inspector for the Town. He has a BS Degree in Engineering Technology/Environmental Option. He is a Registered Sanitarian and Soil Evaluator and is a Certified Title V Site Inspector. He is also a licensed Waste Water Operator. Mr. Gallagher inspects food establishments and disposal system installations, reviews septic designs, witnesses percolation and deep hole tests, responds to health-related complaints, and performs other Title V and health-related duties as required.

Laura Weaver, Chairperson, is available to do soil testing and to witness percolation and deep hole tests.

Deborah Ketchen, Certified Professional Food Manager, is available to inspect food establishments, perform soil tests, and to witness percolation and deep hole tests.

Eileen Hurley, Member of the Board and Office Administrator, is MAHB Certified, and assists contractors and the general public by responding to their questions and requirements. She also oversees the Title V Program and maintains central records and minutes of meetings.

During 2005, the Board responded to multiple complaints relating to odors, birds, dumpsters, well and septic conditions, and other private matters. For ten weeks each summer, Lake Attitash water test results are published weekly in the Town of Merrimac official web site: <http://www.merrimac01860.info>.

The following permits generated \$16,615 in revenue, a 15 percent increase over 2004 revenue.

BUSINESS PERMITS			WORK PERMITS		
Qty.	Category	Fee	Qty.	Category	Fee
19	Food	\$ 1,355	9	Disposal System	\$ 4,050
2	Mobile Food Service	140	21	Perc. & Deep Hole Test	6,250
16	Installer	2,090	5	Well & Pump	1,500
4	Hauler	200	4	Septic Abandonment	200
7	Muscular Therapy	365			
2	Tanning	100			
4	Tobacco Sales	315			
2	Peddler's	50			
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 4,615</b>		<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>

Respectfully Submitted,

Merrimac Board of Health

Eileen Hurley

Term expires 2008

Deborah Ketchen

Term expires 2007

Laura Weaver

Term expires 2006



## MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM INFORMATION



In the fall of 2005, the Town of Merrimac contracted for ground adulticiding (spraying for mosquito larvae). This application is included in the program beginning in the spring of 2006, and continuing for three years. At the Town Meeting last fall, a circular was made available in the hallway, which explained the program. Following is a capsulated version for your information.

**SURVEILLANCE and LARVICIDING** are of the utmost importance. This is the regular testing of mosquitoes and birds for the virus, and the application of larvicides to mosquito breeding areas to kill or inhibit the growth of mosquito larvae.

**ADULTICIDING** is a term used by mosquito control to describe spraying for adult or flying mosquitoes. There are two kinds of adulticiding: Aerial adulticiding is done by aircraft only in the event of a public health emergency. Ground Adulticiding is used to control the mosquito populations in their aquatic or larval stages. This is accomplished by means of a truck-mounted Ultra Low Volume (ULV) aerosol sprayer.

Most people are not expected to experience any adverse health effects after pesticide spraying for adult mosquito control. This includes pregnant women and unborn children. If a person has any concerns, the Board of Health may be contacted to request that spraying be excluded from their specific property.

Ground sprays do not pose an unreasonable risk to birds or mammals. Since spraying is done in the late evening, the bees and other flying insects are not foraging at that hour and will not be affected.

**West Nile Virus:** The primary mosquito carrier of WNV usually breeds in artificial containers such as catch basins, storm water structures, industrial parks, and commercial or agricultural livestock facilities. Regularly empty any water-holding containers on your property, such as garbage cans, flower pots, swimming pool covers, watering troughs and bird-baths, and dispose of old tires.

## 2005 PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT

As I wrote the heading for this report and used the term "Public Health Nurse," I remembered that the official title for this position remains "Town Nurse." That has become an antiquated description in today's world, as the concept of a municipally-employed Town Nurse ministering to the needy individuals within the community borders no longer exists. Public health practice, while still delivering individual/family services when unavailable from other sources, has returned to its roots of addressing population needs and risks through disease prevention and health promotion and education. Public health practice is founded on social justice—what's most beneficial for all!

Emergency preparedness activities for the town, the region and the state have required increasing amounts of involvement this past year. After Katrina's devastation in the Gulf States, all-hazards approach to preparedness gained new importance. Natural disasters and disease present a greater challenge to us all—far greater than terrorism in a centralized area. Flu pandemic planning has gained everyone's attention now that avian flu has extended its reach. Reflection upon the 1918 Spanish Flu's impact on the world has inspired new collaborative partnerships within public health, public safety, hospitals, physicians, and the diverse business community.

A total of 535 doses of flu vaccine were administered in this fall's flu campaign. This represented utilizing both purchased and state supplied vaccine administered to those meeting the established criteria. Numerous other adult vaccines were administered during the year to residents having to meet immunization requirements for school, college, and employment.

Lyme disease and its associated co-infections continue to represent the most frequently reported disease in this community. Sadly, for those afflicted who must endure the ravages of this disease, it remains a preventable disease. Years of educational information and literature have been available throughout this high incidence region yet the numbers continue to rise. This rise can perhaps be attributed to improved testing and diagnosis. However, increased personal vigilance with thorough "tick-checks" and proper outdoor clothing and use of repellents will promote a reduction in the Lyme disease victims.

I continue to represent the town as a member of the Northeast Public Health Coalition, which is part of the Department of Public Health (DPH) B-T Region 3. During the summer months, organizational meetings were held in Merrimac to develop a local medical reserve group to deliver health services in the event of a health emergency in the community or region. Some of the members participated in the flu clinics held at the Senior Center this fall.

In May, I was elected President of Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses for a 2-year term. In that post, I also sit on the Coalition for Local Public Health (comprising the 5 state PH organizations) and the Institute for Local Public Health Advisory Board. Locally, I remain Chair of CHNA12, which meets monthly at the Amesbury Health Center. In the fall, I took and passed the American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC) exam for community/public health nursing and now add the letters BC (board certified) after my RN. This represents nursing's equivalent of physician's board certification for their practice arena.

My office is on the first floor of the Senior Center, 100 East Main Street, where I am available in person or by phone at 978-346-9549 X 14. Weekly blood pressure clinics are held each Tuesday at 12:30 PM at the Senior Center and at pre-scheduled weekly clinics at Merri-Village. All adult immunizations are available by appointment.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charlotte Eileen Stepanian, BS, MSN, RN,C



## MERRIMAC COUNCIL ON AGING Annual Report 2005

The essential services that the Merrimac Council on Aging (COA) has provided to the Town of Merrimac's growing elder population and their families have continued to increase and expand:

- Outreach to homebound
- Transportation to medical appointments, hospitals, and grocery shopping
- Nutrition Program providing meals Monday through Thursday
- Weekly Health Clinics
- Food Pantry
- Foot Care
- Educational Seminars and workshops
- Fuel Assistance & Tax Preparation Assistance
- Wellness Programs
- Daily Activities
- Free Hospital & Medical Supplies
- Advocacy

The staff of the COA has continued to work closely with other town departments including the Board of Selectmen, Board of Assessors, Public Health, Fire and Police Departments, as well as community organizations Merrimac Lions Club and E.S.C.A.P.E. to help our seniors remain in their homes, close to their friends and family, and active in the community. New programs that were initiated this year include adopting a Senior Tax Work-off Program scheduled to begin FY06, free Smoke Detectors and installation, and Personal Information registration with the Fire and Police Departments. The confidential Personal Information Sheet provides the information that may be needed in case of an emergency, including contact names and telephone numbers (for more information or to sign up, contact the Fire Department or the Senior Center). The staff of the COA continued to provide information, seminars and assistance with the state's prescription drug program *Prescription Advantage*, fuel assistance programs, and agency referrals.

The Senior Center continues to provide a site for the Public Health Department to maintain an office, which allows the Public Health Nurse to hold weekly Blood Pressure Clinics, flu and pneumonia immunizations (et al), and used syringe drop off. The Senior Center also remains a potential site for mass immunizations during a pandemic and as an emergency shelter (Merrimac Emergency Management).

A highlight of the year was the *Second Annual Golf Tournament* in August, sponsored by the Friends of the COA and the COA Board of Directors. Many thanks go to the members of the community who participated! Through this fundraising event, the Friends of the Merrimac Council on Aging were able to provide the funding necessary to expand the parking lot and extend the lighting of the Senior Center, which brings safety as a result of a well-lit parking lot for our groups that meet in the evening. They also sponsor special programs and activities throughout the year.

In April, the Council received the long anticipated handicap accessible van through a capital assistance grant of \$30,210.40, or eighty percent of the base cost of one (1) maxivan. The remaining funds had been raised through fundraising by the Friends of the Council on Aging, including a challenge grant of \$5,000 from the Merrimac Savings Bank.

The Food Pantry provides groceries twice a month to Merrimac seniors and adults 50 or older who are in need of assistance. Thanks to the generosity of the three churches in town that have held food drives on a regular basis to benefit the



Pantry, the Merrimac Post Office, Merrimac Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and youth groups, the Pantry has been able to serve over 30 families in town bi-weekly. The Pantry volunteers also helped coordinate the food to share with Amesbury Community Action (which also serves Merrimac residents). Many items are donated by seniors who like to help whenever they can, as well as many generous community members. During holidays, the Pantry has been able to purchase chicken, ham and fresh vegetables for special baskets. Special thanks goes to Peg Casazza, the COA Outreach nurse, and Nancy Bachelder, COA Board member, for their countless volunteer hours in coordinating the Pantry.

In October 2004, the COA Board was pleased to learn that Laura Dillingham-Mailman was elected President of the state association, Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA), which serves the 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth, an honor she will hold for the next two years.

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Laura Dillingham-Mailman, Executive Director  
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Chairwoman

Council on Aging Board of Directors:

- |                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Chairwoman | Herbert Gynan     |
| Terri Walden, Treasurer              | Irene Kimbrell    |
| Dorothy Lumsden, Secretary           | James Murphy      |
| Mary Cheney, Clerk                   | Victor Perreault  |
| Nancy Bachelder                      | Carol Sue Ranshaw |
| Dorothy A. Cloyd                     |                   |

Merrimac Council on Aging Mission Statement: *“To provide services designed to improve the quality of life of elders by assisting them to remain as physically mobile, mentally alert and socially active as possible. The Council on Aging advocates for older adults, manages the resources needed to develop services, provides education for seniors and their families regarding choices in their care and community services available to them.”*

## MERRIMAC PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2005

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen,

The following are highlights of activities and achievements of the Merrimac Parks and Recreation Commission.

1. Built a regulation size basketball court at the Donaghue School fields.
2. Secured \$50,000 for a field study at the town-owned Emery Street property in an effort to eventually build additional recreational areas in town. Obtained a variety of estimates for design of the space, as well as had soil samples and studies conducted by various professionals.
3. Held the first town picnic at Indian Head Park attended by approximately 300 town residents. This event allowed local businesses offering summer recreational opportunities to showcase their programs to residents. It also gave local groups the opportunity to inform the public about their goals and how residents can get involved.
4. Held the second annual Merrimac Day at the Lowell Spinners. Two hundred residents attended the event.
5. Sponsored another successful 6-week summer program, which was attended by 180 children and employed 14 town residents.
6. Sponsored another successful year of the Merrimac Tennis program. 187 youth and adult residents attended the program.
7. Sponsored a Balance Pilates class held at the Public Library.
8. Added fence extensions to the softball and baseball fields as a safety precaution.
9. Through approval at Town Meeting, the name of this board was officially changed from Merrimac Playground Commission to the Merrimac Parks and Recreation Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Parks and Recreation Commission

Don Ackerman  
David Creesy  
Erick Kuchar  
Sue Marden  
Jay Soucy

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

### TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

The Trustees meet the second Thursday of each month at the Cemetery Office, 2 Locust Grove Road. Officers for the past year: Chairman- Pat Casey, Clerk- Elizabeth Emery and member Gordon Rines. At the annual election Elizabeth Emery was elected to fill the three-year Trustee position.

This past year, roadwork was done at Locust Grove Cemetery. The area was excavated; rap was spread and paved with a binder. In the spring, plans call for the paved area to be topped. The roads at the Church Street Cemetery were refreshed with recycled asphalt.

Two diseased trees were removed at Locust Grove Cemetery and one day of tree trimming was done. There are many mature trees at Locust Grove Cemetery; therefore tree work is an ongoing process.

During the spring, five Red maples were planted adjacent to Locust Grove Road. There was also a cluster planting in front of the sign, at the middle entrance to the cemetery. Two emerald green arborvitaes and a golden mop cypress were planted.

The hot water tank at the maintenance building was replaced in July.

The Church Street Cemetery stonewall continues to be an unresolved issue.

There were 21 burials at Locust Grove Cemetery.

Lower Corner Cemetery, Church Street, and Locust Grove Cemetery were all kept well-mowed and maintained throughout the past year.

The Trustees would like to thank employee Harold White III for his dependable service to the department and to thank the Highway Department for their co-operation and assistance during the year. We were very fortunate to have David Armstrong as part-time employee this past year.

Members:	Patricia Casey	Term expires 2006
	Gordon A. Rines	Term expires 2007
	Elizabeth L. Emery	Term expires 2008

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elizabeth L. Emery, Clerk



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC CULTURAL COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2005

The Merrimac Cultural Council is part of a grass-roots network of 335 local councils that serve every city and town in the state. The program is the largest most decentralized one of its kind in the United States. The state Legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which then allocates funds to each local council. Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by each local council, comprised of a board of municipally-appointed volunteers. For more information on the Merrimac Cultural Council, call 978-346-4426.

This year, the Merrimac Cultural Council awarded the following grants totaling \$2900. The funds come from the state allocation as well as local fund-raising efforts. The MCC also sponsors local events for cultural and fund-raising purposes. The MCC sponsored the 2005 Holiday House Tour in December, which raised \$750, of which \$300 was donated to the Santa Parade Fund.

### Grants:

Bridget Kazukiewicz \$550

Merrimack Valley Concert Band \$300

Merrimac Public Library \$550 (2 \$275 grants)

Newburyport Choral Society \$300

Outdoor Sculpture at Maudslay \$150

Buck Expeditions \$300

Tequilamigos \$300

### Merrimac Cultural Council Members:

Judy Flynn

Thelma Gibbs

Eleanor Hope-McCarthy (Secretary)

Candida Journeay

Helen Koolian

Nancy Perkins

Hanna Trautmann

Deborah Webster

Gage Cogswell (Chairman, Treasurer)

## WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

5/02/2005

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elective officers of the Town as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108 as amended: Moderator, Town Clerk, Three Selectmen, Three Assessors, Three Commissioner of Municipal Light, Three Water Commissioners, Three Sewer Commissioners, and raise, appropriate or transfer sums of money therefore and to determine sums of money raised to transferred to defray the necessary and usual charges and expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2005 and make appropriations for the same, said sums of money so raised, appropriated or transferred to be expended for specific purposes to be voted; or take any other action relative thereto.

Maturing Debt	\$ 1,033,200
Interest on Debt	399,447
General Gov. Unclassified	667,675
General Government	453,813
Public Safety	1,032,337
Health & Sanitation	941,466
Highway	399,680
Public Assistance	155,550
Whittier	379,328
Pentucket	4,573,548
Library	237,204
Recreation	57,425
Water	724,413
Cemetery	47,889
Total Omnibus	<u>\$ 11,102,975</u>

*Passed*

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the Electric Light Operating Balance, said money to be used by the Assessors as part of the estimated receipts used to fix the tax rate for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2005; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$9,000 to be expended by the Board of Assessors to perform duties and incur expenses relating to any equalization or revaluation of the Town; to authorize the Board of Assessors to hire themselves at the rate of \$20.00 per hour and to hire such necessary assistance as the Board of Assessors may deem necessary and convenient; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$10,740 for revaluation to Assessors' Reserve Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to accept the State Grant of Chapter 90 Highway Funds and authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend said funds for Highway purposes in accordance with the terms of said grants.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$11,100 from the Water Pollution Abatement Trust (WPAT) Loan Repayment Receipts Reserved to be used as available funds in support of debt service payments associated with Title V Septic Loan Repayment Principal and Interest for FY2006; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$153,900 for Solid Waste Recycling and Disposal; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Trash Offset Receipts a sum of money in the amount of \$130,500 for Solid Waste Recycling and Disposal; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Trash Offset Receipts a sum of money in the amount of \$6,000 for collection of Household Hazardous Waste and Leaf Collection; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$34,000 for the purchase of a police cruiser; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$60,000 for the purchase of police and fire base radios; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$12,000 for purchase, installation and configuration of a new Town Hall network server and other associated hardware and software as necessary plus ongoing maintenance of said network; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$5,000 for roadwork at Locust Grove Cemetery; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$8,000 for the purchase of an industrial washing machine for the Fire Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$40,000 for the purchase of a new 1-Ton truck with a plow for the Highway Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$7,500 for additional funds for the purchase and installation of the lift for the Highway Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$7,500 for a 10 foot snowplow to be installed on the truck purchased with Chapter 90 Funds for the Highway Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*



ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$3,545 for hardware and software maintenance and troubleshooting of the Town Hall Network server, hub and router as well as troubleshooting problems with workstations and purchase of software and hardware, as necessary; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$3,500 for the purchase of voting booths for the Board of Registrars; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$7,500 for the second phase of fire alarm repair to the main trunk line; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$50,000 for legal and or consulting fees relative to the operation of the Town, at the direction of the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$ 1,200 for the purchase and installation of a sign for Broad St.; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$2,500 for the purchase of two microphones and a mixer for use at Town Meetings; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$ 74,416 to be transferred to the Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$132,000 for the purchase of an ambulance and defibrillator for the Fire Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds known as "Sale of Cemetery Lots", a sum of money in the amount of \$7,850, such sum or part thereof, to be expended under the direction of the Cemetery Trustees for the "care, improvement and embellishment" of said cemeteries, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 114, Section 15 and section 25; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$13,000 from Water Privilege Fees for Water Meter Replacement, to continue Water Department program to upgrade all the water meters in town; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000 from Water Capital to the upgrade and or repair of the Water Treatment Plants; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$ 1,900 to be used by the Board of Health for administration by the Health Inspector of the government mandated Homeland Security Program; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 53E \_\_, to establish revolving funds for the following departments for the specific purpose outlined below for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2006; or take any other action relative thereto.

a. POLICE REVOLVING FUND

Fees received for firearms licenses and permit fees to be used to pay the state share of such fees and similar departmental needs, said expenditures to be approved by the Police Chief; and not to exceed \$5,000 during the fiscal year 2006.

b. ZONING BOARD OF APPEAL REVOLVING FUND

Fees received for applicants requesting appeal of zoning decisions to be used to pay for advertising, mailings, legal and administrative costs, said expenditures to be approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals; not to exceed \$4,000 during the fiscal year 2006.

c. BOARD OF HEALTH TOWN NURSE REVOLVING FUND

Fees received for nursing programs and services to be used by the Town Nurse to pay for materials and technical services for nursing programs and health promotion programs, said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Health; not to exceed \$3,500 during fiscal year 2006.

d. CHAPTER 40B REVOLVING FUND

Fees received from developers for Chapter 40B applications to be used to pay for plan reviews, inspections and related legal and administrative costs, said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Selectmen; not to exceed \$50,000 during the fiscal year 2006.

e. PLAYGROUND REVOLVING FUND

Fees received for Summer Playground Programs to be used to pay seasonal staff and related costs, said expenditures to be approved by the Playground Commissioners; not to exceed \$16,000 during the fiscal year 2006.

f. ZONING BYLAW AND BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE ENFORCEMENT FUND

5% of all fees received from building, wiring, plumbing and gas permits plus 100% of all fines and monetary judgments received as a result of Inspectional Services Department compliance enforcement actions to be used by Inspectional Services Department for legal fees and administrative costs relative to Zoning Bylaw and Building Code compliance enforcement actions; said expenditures to be approved by the Building Commissioner, not to exceed \$5,000 during fiscal year 2006.

g. BOARD OF HEALTH PROJECT REVOLVING FUND

50% of all permit fees received for the Bear Hill Road and Quail Ridge/Battis Road Subdivisions to be used by the Board of Health to pay for tests and inspections for these two projects; said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Health; not to exceed \$2,500 during the fiscal year 2006.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$5,000 for the funding of a M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53E \_\_ revolving account to be used by the Inspectional Services Department for legal fees and administrative costs relative to Zoning Bylaw and Building Code compliance enforcement actions; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 32. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$150,000 for the construction of the sewer main extension on Emery St, for which the residents shall provide full repayment plus interest and bonding costs for all associated work according to the sewer Use Ordinance, Article VI, Section 2 Paragraph 2 and Article VII, Section 3 and; to fund said appropriation, the Treasurer, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow \$150,000 and to issue bonds and notes therefore in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 7(1), or any other enabling authority; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*



ARTICLE 33. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$135,000 for sewer and a new driveway to alleviate parking problems at the Sweetsir School; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 34. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the balance of FY02 Special Article #15, A&E for Cobbler's Brook Bridge, in the amount of \$800 to Highway Expenses Line Item # 102 of Article #1, FY06; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 35. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting Section I-1-A, Membership of the Regional District School Committee, and Section I-2-C, Quorums, Votes and Governance, in their entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:

SECTION I-1

- A. The Regional District School Committee shall consist of nine members, three from each member town, who shall be elected by the voters of that town; each member so elected shall serve a three year term.

SECTION I-2

- C. Any action voted by the Regional District School Committee which directly and specifically affects the elementary school(s) in only one town requires that two of the three members of the Regional District School Committee from the town in which the affected elementary school is located vote in support of that action. In order, however, for a school to be closed in any member town where there is more than one elementary school, all three committee members from the affected town are required to vote in favor of the proposed closure after a public hearing is held in the affected town.

This amendment would become effective with the May 2006 Town Elections and would be implemented in all three Towns in the following manner:

- 1 Year seat in May 2006 to expire in May 2007
- 3 Year seat in May 2006 to expire in May 2009
- 3 Year seat in May 2007 to expire in May 2010
- 3 Year seat in May 2008 to expire in May 2011

Or take any other action relative thereto.

*Failed*

ARTICLE 36. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting Section I-2-A, Quorums, Votes and Governance, in their entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:

- A. A quorum to conduct business at regular meetings shall consist of a simple majority of its members and special meetings shall require not less than two members from each of the towns.

This amendment will take effect after the May 2006 Town Elections.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 37. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting Section X-A-1 & 3 Budget and renumbering the remaining paragraphs accordingly and inserting in place thereof the following:

- A-1. The budget process shall be initiated annually on or about January 1st and shall provide opportunity for the Selectmen and Finance Committee of each member town to have input into its preparation. On or about February 1st, the Regional District School Committee shall complete its proposed budget for the ensuing year, and said proposed budget shall be posted in the Town Hall of each member town, shall be provided to each member towns' public library, and shall be submitted to the Selectmen, Finance Committee members and Finance Directors of each member town.



- A-3. Prior to March 1st of each year the Regional District School Committee shall adopt by a two-thirds vote of all its members a budget with such changes as may have resulted from conferences and an open hearing. Within ten (10) days from the date on which the budget is adopted, the Treasurer of the District shall certify to the Treasurer of each member town its assessed share of such budget.

This amendment would become enacted for the Budget Year beginning July 1, 2006.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 38. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting Section X-A-5 & 6 Budget and renumbering the remaining paragraphs accordingly and inserting in place thereof the following:

- A-5. A majority vote of the voters present and voting on the question at an annual town meeting in two (2) out of the three (3) towns is needed to approve a budget.

This amendment would become enacted for the Budget Year beginning July 1, 2006.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

*Failed*

ARTICLE 39. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting Section XIII-A Amendments, in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:

- A. Amendments to the agreement must receive a majority vote of approval by each member town at any town meeting. Amendments may be initiated by the Regional District School Committee or by the Board of Selectmen of any of the member towns.

This amendment would become enacted for the Budget Year beginning July 1, 2006.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

*Failed*

ARTICLE 40. To see if the Town will vote to rescind Article IV, Section IV of the Town Bylaws, relative to the purchase of equipment, supplies or materials; or take any action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 41. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Law, Article 6, Agricultural Residential Zone (AR), Section 6.6, Dimensional and Intensity Regulations, Item 6.6.8 currently "Minimum Side Yard Setback: 50 Feet 1" to read "Minimum Side Yard Setback: 30 Feet 1" and Item 6.6.9 currently "Minimum Rear Yard Setback: 30 Feet" to read "Minimum Rear Yard Setback: 30 Feet 1"; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 42. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Law, Article 10, Highway Services District (HS), Section 10.5, Dimensional and Intensity Regulations, Item 10.5.10 from "Open Space Percent of Lot Area: 10%" to read "Open Space Percent of Lot Area: 20%"; and Article 11, Section 11.6, Dimensional and Intensity Regulations, Item 11.6.11 from "open Space Percent of Lot Area: 30%" to "Open Space Percent of Lot Area: 20%"; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 43. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Law, Article 21, Signs, by renumbering Section 21.5 Temporary Signs, Item 21.5.3 to read 21.5.4; and by adding Item 21.5.3 to read "Temporary Signs pertaining to a candidate or ballot question appearing on the ballot of an election duly called in the Town of Merrimac shall require no sign permit and shall be allowed in all zoning districts. Such signs permitted by the by-law: 21.5.3.1 shall only be permitted on private property; and 21.5.3.2 shall be stationary and shall not be illuminated"; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 44. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Law by deleting the existing definition of Lot Width in Article 2, Definitions, and replacing it with the following new definition: "Lot Width: The diameter of a circle, placed between side lot lines and tangential to the frontage of a given lot. The required circle shall be contained entirely within the lot's perimeter. For all residential lots except those created under special permits, each single or two family dwelling shall be located on a lot containing an imaginary circle with a diameter that is equal to or greater than the minimum lot width for the applicable zoning district."; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 45. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Official Zoning Map by changing the zoning designation set forth on the existing Zoning Map from the Highway Services District (HS) to Village Residential District (VR), in the vicinity of Lancaster Court and School Street as shown on the map entitled "Exhibit A" as approved by the Town of Merrimac as Article 9 on May 3, 2004 and approved by the Attorney General's Office on August 20, 2004, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk. The proposed changes will affect all or portions of each of the following parcels, as shown on said map (all references are current Merrimac Assessor's map and parcel information): Lots 13-1-1, 13-1-2 and portions of lot 13-1-3; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 46. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Official Zoning Map by changing the zoning designation set forth on the existing Zoning Map from Village Residential District (VR) to Highway Services District (HS), in the vicinity of Broad Street, Lancaster Court and School Street as shown on the map entitled "Exhibit A" as approved by the Town of Merrimac as Article 9 on May 3, 2004 and approved by the Attorney General's Office on August 20, 2004, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk. The proposed changes will affect all or portions of each of the following parcels, as shown on said map (all references are current Merrimac Assessor's map and parcel information): Lots 13-1-3A and 13-1-19A; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 47. To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 10 of the Town By-Law by adding to the Longevity Policy as follows: " and \$450 per year after the thirtieth full year of employment."; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 48. To see if the Town will vote to amend the quorum requirement for the town meeting from current "5% of active voters list" to "150 voters"; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 49. To see if the Town will vote to adopt a by-law, establishing a uniform numbering system for residential and commercial structures within the town by the Board of Assessors, with the approval of the Selectmen, Fire and Police Departments shall assign all residential and commercial structures existing as of the adoption of this by-law a street number and, furthermore, shall assign to vacant properties numbers to be held in reserve for future use. Streets built subsequent to the adoption of this by-law will be assigned numbers by the Board of Assessors at the time of approval by the Planning Board; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 50. To see if the Town will vote to adopt a by-law to require that all warrant articles, other than the omnibus article, to raise and appropriate \$100,000 or more be voted by question at a town election; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Failed*

ARTICLE 51. To see if the Town will vote to adopt a by-law to require taping of open sessions of meetings of the Board of Selectmen for transmission on local cable access; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*



## WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

5/02/2005

Essex, ss.

To one of the Constables of the Town of Merrimac:

GREETINGS, In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Merrimac to meet in the Frederick N. Sweetsir School in Merrimac on May 2, 2005 at 7:30 PM to act on the following articles, namely:

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to transfer various sums of money to supplement various town employee salaries and department expense accounts in the FY05 Omnibus Budget; or take any other action thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Electric Light Operating Balance a sum of money in the amount of \$29,500.00, as a one-time additional in lieu of tax payment for FY05; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of money in the amount of \$146,775.31 to the Water Surplus Fund for Water Surplus from FY02, FY03 and FY04; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Sewer Capital Fund a sum of money in the amount of \$28,292.66, as a one time additional in lieu of tax payment for FY05 for the sewer deficit for FY02 and FY03 and for the sewer surplus for FY04; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$556,476 to pay its share of the additional assessment of the Pentucket Regional School District Budget for Fiscal Year 2006 provided that a levy limit override question in the amount of \$484,500 is approved on May 9, 2005 under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21 C; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$50,000 for the costs of engineering studies and drawings at potential sites for new athletic fields, provided that such appropriation be contingent of the approval on May 9, 2005 of a levy limit override question under General Laws Chapter 59, section 21 C; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Tabled*

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## WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

5/23/2005

Essex, ss.

To one of the Constables of the Town of Merrimac:

GREETINGS, In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Merrimac to meet in the Frederick N. Sweetsir School in Merrimac on May 23, 2005 at 7:30 PM to act on the following articles, namely:

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer an amount of money in the sum of \$50,000 from the stabilization account, for the costs of engineering studies and drawings at potential sites, and the costs for development of new athletic fields; or take any other action thereto.

*Passed*



## WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

10/24/2005

Essex, ss.

To one of the Constables of the Town of Merrimac:

GREETINGS, In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Merrimac to meet in the Frederick N. Sweetsir School in Merrimac on October 24, 2005 at 7:30 PM to act on the following articles, namely

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$48,402.00 to increase various lines of Article 1, FY2006 Annual Town Meeting, as follows; or take any other action relative thereto.

Line No.	Description	Increase	Revised Appropriation	Explanation
23	Group Health & Life Insurance	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 325,000.00	New Sewer Employee
79	Police Department Salaries	\$ 26,641.00	\$ 632,934.00	Contract Negotiations
				Reallocation from Salary to
80	Police Department Expense	\$ 900.00	\$ 48,632.00	Expense (Transfer)1
81	Fire Department Salaries	\$ 179.00	\$ 158,411.00	Miscalculation
87	Inspectional Services	\$ 200.00	\$ 89,066.00	Longevity added
87	Inspectional Services	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 91,066.00	Sick Time Emergency
102	Highway Wages	\$ 5,847.00	\$ 267,637.00	Contract Negotiations**
122	Water Department Salaries	\$ 10,135.00	\$ 251,160.00	Contract Negotiations**
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$ 48,402.00</b>		

*Passed*

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to reduce the amount raised and appropriated on various lines of Article 1, FY2006 Annual Town Meeting, as follows or take any other action relative thereto.

Line No.	Description	Increase	Revised Appropriation	Explanation
22	Prop/Liab. & Worker's Comp	\$ (26,367.00)	\$ 125,133.00	Renegotiated Insurance
35	Department Offset	\$ 10,148.00	\$ (278,743.00)	Renegotiated Insurance
100	Sewer Benefit Reimbursement	\$ (3,126.00)	\$ 85,662.00	Renegotiated Insurance
124	Water Benefit Reimbursement	\$ 3,572.00	\$ 74,051.00	Renegotiated Insurance
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$ (22,917.00)</b>		

*Passed*

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$2,500.00 for Tax Title/Foreclosure Fees, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the remaining \$ 48,956.27 balance of the borrowing, per Chapter 44 Section 20 of MGL, authorized by Article #14 of the October 27, 2003 Special Town Meeting, to the borrowing authorized by Article #32 of the May 2, 2005 Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the remaining \$ 45,673.91 balance of the borrowing, per Chapter 44 Section 20 of MGL, authorized by Article #13 of the May 2, 2002 Annual Town Meeting, to the borrowing authorized by Article #32 of the May 2, 2005 Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to reduce the borrowing authorized by Article #32 of the May 2, 2005 Annual Town Meeting, the sum of \$ 94,630.00, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Article #21 of the May 2, 2005 Annual Town Meeting, the sum of \$ 2,580.75 for a prior fiscal year invoice for legal expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$1,200.00 for the repair and preservation of Town records for the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$4,658.00 for the emergency mosquito control, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Capital Fund a sum of money in the amount of \$9,000.00 for the replacement of three overhead doors at the E. Main St. Pumping Station, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to accept Ashley Lane and all associated infrastructures as a public way in the Town of Merrimac as shown on a plan entitled "Ashley Lane As-Built Plan Roadway and Pond Plan" prepared by Northpoint Survey Services and dated March 10, 2005 on file at the office of the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53F 1/2 for the purpose of creating an Enterprise Fund for the Water Operations of the Town, with said Water Operations Fund to be established effective with Fiscal Year 2007, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53F A for the purpose of creating an Enterprise Fund for the Wastewater (Sewer) Operations of the Town, with said Wastewater (Sewer) Operations Fund to be established effective with Fiscal Year 2007, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to change the title of the Merrimac Playground Commission to the Merrimac Parks and Recreation Commission and operate under the MGL Chapter 45, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to amend the bylaws adopted in 2004 by adding under Article XXXV, Section IV of the Town By-Laws, effective Nov 1, 2005 to establish the following restrictions regarding Indian Head Park,

- Park opens at Sunrise and closes at Sunset.
- Sticker required to enter the park beginning on the Friday before Memorial Day through Columbus Day.
- No beaching or launching of power operated watercraft.
- Local groups and organizations require special permission from the Merrimac Parks and Recreation Commission or Town Selectmen to use Indian Head Park for a group outing, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*



ARTICLE 16. To see in the Town vote to participate for a period of at least three years in the Mosquito Control Projects conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources under the control of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB). The amount required to participate in this program will be approximately \$23,000 per year beginning in FY2007. The selectmen will have the final decision regarding the Town's participation in the mosquito program, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to restrict the use of the following parcels of land, owned by the Town of Merrimac and recorded at the Essex South Registry of Deeds:

- Approx. 9 acres on Assessors' Map 83, Block 1, Lot 2 Highland Road and Battis Road (Jakobek Way) recorded on Book 18109, Page 584;
- Approx. 21.7 acres on Assessors' Map 73, Block 1, Parcels 1 & 3 and
- Approx. 46 acres on Assessors' Map 74, Block 1, Parcel 1, recorded on Book 14422, Page 178, for passive recreation use only, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Passed*

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### WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

11/21/2005

Essex, ss.

To one of the Constables of the Town of Merrimac:

GREETINGS, In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Merrimac to meet in the Frederick N. Sweetsir School in Merrimac on Monday November 21, 2005 at 7:30 PM to act on the following articles, namely:

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from any potential available source, including the stabilization account, which requires a 2/3 vote, an amount of money not to exceed \$209,847.74, to fund the request from the school committee for a one-time additional assessment, which is not added to the base assessment, for the Pentucket Regional School District, voted on at the Tuesday November 1, 2005 School Committee Meeting, provided that if additional revenues are realized, or if any of the worst case scenarios envisioned in the original deficit do not materialize to the maximum extent, those funds are to be returned to the three towns; or take any other action thereto.

*Passed*

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### WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

11/21/2005

Essex, ss.

To one of the Constables of the Town of Merrimac:

GREETINGS, In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Merrimac to meet in the Frederick N. Sweetsir School in Merrimac on Monday November 21, 2005 at 8:00 PM to act on the following articles, namely:

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$209,847.74, for the Pentucket Regional School District.

*Tabled*



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